THE ATHENÆUM.

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GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

REAL KILLCROPS.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

AMONG the nursery tales which, to the great delectation of grown masters and misses, have of late years made their way to the parlour, "married to immortal verse," and printed upon woven hot-pressed paper, I have remarked the curious legend of the *Killcrops*. These, it seems, are a kind of miscreated brats, distinguished by a most voracious appetite, cross and ill-conditioned, who pass their whole time in eating and crying for more. The venerable Luther saw one, twelve years of age, which would devour as much as two clowns or threshers, and was informed of another that sucked the mother and five other women dry, and eat a great deal besides. He was fully convinced that they were the devil's changelings; and affirms that, had he been prince of the country, he would have thrown them into the river.

Now, fabulous as this narration may appear to the present enlightened age, I confess my belief that the race of these unlucky beings is still subsisting, and that it would be no difficult matter to detect whole broods of them among ourselves, operating as heavy burdens upon society. If this be really the fact, I need not say how much it behoves Mr. Malthus, and all those whom he has convinced of the urgent dangers of an over-population, to discover and root out such a noxious vermin, whose specific character it is to consume an inordinate share of the sustenance of man without any benefit to the community in return. It is said of Henry IV. of France, that a famous eater, who could devour the food of six reasonable men, being once presented to him, he asked the fellow if he could work in proportion; and when the man replied, that he could work like any other person of his size and strength, "Is that all? (returned the monarch) Ventre saint gris! if I had a dozen such as you in my kingdom, I would hang

them all, lest they should breed a famine." This good king, I suspect, would have shewn as little mercy to Killcrops as the zealous Luther.

In order to contribute my assistance in the inquisition after these pestilent creatures, I shall beg leave to make some observations relative to the places where they are and are not likely to be found. Horace talks of people "fruges consumere nati"—born to waste victuals; and doubtless it is in this class that the true Killcrops are to be sought. In the labouring ranks of the community it would be in vain to search for them; since the individuals of this class are born rather to procure food for others, than to eat it themselves: whence I cannot but wonder that the profound politician and philosopher above-mentioned should have limited his apprehensions of a superfluity of mouths to those without whose exertions the select party who are seated at *the table of nature* might dine with duke Humphrey. No, no! the Killcrops are not to be found among the children of peasants who grow up stout and sturdy upon potatoes and oatmeal, and so far from draining dry more nurses than their own mothers, are often deprived of that milk which would naturally have come to their share. Neither are they to be met with in the puny progeny of manufacturers, set to turn a wheel or draw out a thread almost before they can walk: these may, indeed, have the sign of perpetual hunger, but it is because they labour under a perpetual emptiness.

But if families exist in which it is a maxim that all the individuals of them have a claim to be maintained in luxurious plenty without contributing to the public stock, and which, though already possessed of an immoderate share of good things, are insatiably gaping for more, it is among them that Killcrops are to be looked for. We must not expect, however, to discover them by the vulgar marks of sucking nurses dry, or eating against ploughmen; but if any little Master can be found crammed with the profits of a sinecure place, or a Miss whose baby-house and toilet are supplied by a pension, they may without hesitation be set down for Killcrops. To the same burthensome tribe may also be referred those who, in overstocked families, are brought up to be fattened on useless offices in church or state, preserved only for their maintenance: who are destined to gnaw the vitals of Britain, or suck the blood of Hindostan. If all these were fairly reckoned, I much fear that the Killcrop race would appear never to have been more numerous than in our age and country: and though I do not, with Luther, suppose them to be of Satanic parentage, or propose to throw them into the Thames, yet, I confess, to reduce their gormandizing diet and make them content with an ordinary ration of the public provisions, would, in my opinion, be a service of no small benefit in our present condition.

Yours, &c.

NASO.

CUSTOM OF MARLING.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

LOCAL peculiarities of custom, while deriving an occasional value from the evidence they afford to historical fact, are rendered still more generally interesting by the lights they throw upon the habits of our forefathers in a state of society less refined and cultivated than that in which we live. In the latter point of view, it is probable that some of your readers may be amused by the account of a singular practice at present prevailing in Cheshire, and, as far as I can learn, exclusively confined to this county and the southern parts of Lancashire. The custom to which I allude is that of *marling*, or *making a marling*, as it is sometimes called. In no one district of the kingdom is the substance termed *marl* found in greater abundance, or employed more extensively for agricultural purposes, than in Cheshire. Almost every field contains some pit or excavation out of which this manure has been procured for distribution over the neighbouring lands; and the advantages which the farmer derives from the judicious application of it are incalculably great. The men who are employed in getting the marl out of these pits are termed *marlers;* and it is among them that the practice, which I am about to describe, exclusively prevails. When a set of these men are hired to dig for marl in any particular spot, they choose from among themselves a leader of their body, who is entitled, by way of distinction, the *Lord of the Pit*. The person so chosen is generally recommended to the situation by his superior steadiness and excellence as a workman; and he retains his pre-eminence during the whole time that the pit is worked. The office of the *Lord of the Pit* is by no means a complicated one; it is his business to ask from every person who passes the marl-pit a donation of money for the marlers; a request which, according to the usage of the county, is very generally complied with. Upon the receipt of any such gift, and the communication of the name of the donor, the marlers suspend their work, form a circle, and, with many strange gesticulations of body and face, utter in conjunction three *whoops*, which for noise and uncouthness of sound would do no discredit to a war-chorus of North American Indians. As soon as these are completed, one of their number exclaims in *solo*, with a voice as loud as he is capable of emitting, "*Mr. A. B.* (mentioning the name of the donor) *has given to my Lord and all his men a part of a hundred thousand pounds.*" The *whoops* then recommence, and the whole is terminated by a cry, from all the men at the same time, of "*for more, for more.*" The ceremony is repeated as often as any donation is made to them, with this only modification, that when the present does not exceed one shilling, it is denominated a part of a *thousand*, instead of a *hundred thousand pound*. The money thus accumulated is destined, as might naturally be expected, for the alehouse, whither the marlers repair as soon as a sufficient sum is collected.

Here

Here it is customary for them, when in the midst of their pots of beer, to repeat the ceremony of *marling*, for each donation which has been made to them whilst at the pit. The farmer by whom they are employed is usually the principal donor on these occasions; but, as I mentioned before, they very generally receive money from his neighbours, and from other people who casually come in their way.

I have endeavoured, but without success, to ascertain the circumstances which gave rise to this practice. The farmers, to whom I have spoken on the subject, concur in representing it as a very ancient custom, but are unacquainted with any further particulars. Should it happen that any one of your readers is able to furnish a few hints with respect to its probable origin, a communication to this effect would probably be not unacceptable in your Magazine.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

AMICUS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FEROE ISLANDS.

(Continued.)

The Feroe Islands which are inhabited are in number seventeen, and form seven parishes. Their names are,

Fugloe,*	Osteroe,	Myggenæs,
Svinoe	Stromoe,	Sandoe,
Videroe,	Kolter,	Skuoe,
Bordoe,	Hestoe,	The greater Dimon,
Konoe,	Nolsoe,	Suderoe.
Kalsoe,	Vaagoe,	

1. FUGLOE is the remotest island towards the north-east; it is somewhat more than half a mile† in length, and nearly the same in breadth; it contains two villages.

2. SVINOE lying to the south-south-west of Fugloe, and separated from it by a channel about a quarter of a mile broad, is little more than a mile in length and almost three quarters in breadth. It consists properly of two hills, and is almost intersected by two creeks proceeding east and west, the land between them being scarcely a quarter of a mile in extent. Such indentations into the land are exceedingly convenient to the inhabitants, for they can have boats on both sides; and when prevented by the violence of the breakers on one side from putting to sea, in order to fish, they can launch their boats on the other side.

3. VIDEROE lies to the north-north-west of Svinoe, and is separated from it by a channel about one-eighth of a mile in breadth. It extends north and south, and is two miles long, and in the widest part three

* The termination *oe* signifies an island; so that *Fugloe* may be translated Bird Island; *svinoe*, Swine Island, &c.

† The miles in all this account are Danish.

three quarters of a mile broad. On the eastern side of this island is a cavity or perforation, through which a boat can be rowed from the one end to the other. It is arched at the top, and may be about one hundred and fifty ells in length. When I examined this natural tunnel, which I passed through in a boat, a friend who accompanied me had the courage to discharge his fowling-piece in it: no bad consequence, indeed, ensued; but the noise of the report was tremendous. The island contains two villages.

4. Bordoe, which has the narrow channel Quanasund between it and Videroe, is little more than two miles and three quarters long, and, where widest, one mile and three quarters broad. It contains seven villages.

5. Kunoe or Konoe, separated from the preceding by Haralsund, is a long narrow island, extending north and south, about a mile and three quarters in length, and scarcely half a mile in breadth. It consists merely of one high steep hill, and contains three villages.

6. Kalsoe is also a long narrow island, separated from Kunoe by a channel scarcely a quarter of a mile wide. It extends north and south, or rather south-south-east and north-north-west, and is two miles and a half long, but less than a quarter of a mile in breadth. Landing here is exceedingly difficult, except at a place called Husum. It contains four villages.

7. Osteroe lies to the west of Kalsoe and Bordoe, and is separated from the former by a small channel nearly a quarter of a mile in width. Its length from south to north, or south-south-east and north-north-west, is about four miles and three quarters; but its breadth varies according to the nature of the headlands which project from it: where broadest it is about two miles and a half. It contains twenty villages.

Near Andfiord, which lies on the east side of the island, on a small bay of the same name, is a remarkable stone or rock, called *Rinkesteen*. This stone, which is situated in the water a few feet from the land, is about four fathoms in length, three in breadth, and rises above the water, according as it is ebb or flood, from one to two fathoms. It may be called a perpetual motion; for even when the sea is perfectly calm, if touched only with the point of a fishing rod, its motion may be distinctly perceived, and when the breakers are strong it vibrates backwards and forwards several inches, emitting at the same time a creaking noise, which is considered as a sign of bad weather. Near it is another stone of a very large size, which vibrates also, but its motion is not so perceptible. It is not improbable that these stones may have rested on a bed of clay, and the clay being washed away by the tide, they have remained suspended on the summits of two pointed rocks.

8. Stromoe, the largest of the Feroe islands, lies to the west of Osteroe, extending south-east and north-west. It is six miles and a quarter in length and one and three quarters in breadth. It contains fourteen villages and single farms, and has four churches.

This island produces the best sheep; but, during severe winters, many

many of them are lost in the snow. It abounds also with sea-fowl: the rocks principally frequented by them are situated towards the north, and exhibit in summer, at which time they swarm with them, a very singular appearance. The following short description will serve to convey a very faint idea of them. Before the rock which forms the sea coast stands a long rock, resembling a wall, which rises to the height of two hundred fathoms, so that it is almost equal in height to the coast itself. The bottom of this rocky wall, which throws out many projections, is almost entirely covered with fowl, which, as they are seldom scared by the presence of men, and still seldomer hear the report of a gun, are exceedingly tame. All the shelves and cavities of this rock are also filled with them. It has an opening in it like a lofty gateway, through which you can proceed in a boat towards the coast, and when within it, you then perceive that this wall stands at a distance from the coast, so that a long channel is left between them; and this channel is so wide as to admit a large boat to turn in it. On both sides the rocks rise to the height of more than two hundred fathoms. As the long rock consists of several strata, and as the thinnest of these in general is hardened clay, which is softer than the other strata, these layers of clay are in many places washed out and destroyed by the force of the waves, and leave cavities which serve the fowl as places of resort, where they build their nests and rear their young. On the upper edge of the harder strata the fowls, with their white breasts projecting, arrange themselves in rows one above the other, as regularly as if they were porcelain figures disposed on shelves; and if they have not been before frightened by firing at them, you may shoot several of them before they are aware of their danger, and without the rest being in the least disturbed. Those even which were placed close to the fowls that have been killed remain quiet in their places, and those which concealed themselves farther back in the cavity readily come forwards to occupy the places of those that have been shot; so that the row is again soon completed. To describe this spectacle properly is impossible; no pen can do justice to it: to form a proper conception of it one must have actually seen it.

Thorshavn, the capital of Suderoe, is situated on a small tongue of land, on the south-east side of the island. It is the seat of government as well as the staple of trade, and the residence of the principal civil officers, such as the commandant, chief justice, surgeon, &c. There is here a Latin school, and a neat wooden church covered with slate. The town is defended from privateers by a fort, constructed on a projecting point on the east side of the bay, which was strengthened and repaired in the time of the American war. The town contains about a hundred houses, all built of wood; but some of the streets are so narrow that, in consequence of the situation of the ground, or of upright masses of rock, which rise in them to a considerable height, no more than one person can pass through them at a time. There are here two smiths, two carpenters, one joiner, and three or four coopers. The whole inhabitants, including a garrison of thirty-six men, form about

about a hundred families, one-half of whom are fishermen, servants, and paupers. Frederiksvaag, on the west side of Thorshavn, was formerly a staple for Danish East and West Indian goods, and a considerable trade was carried on here with Scotland, particularly during the time of the American war, which was very profitable to the individuals engaged in it; but at present this pretty little town is entirely deserted.

9. Noolsoe, or Naalsoe, lies to the east of Sudstromoe, and is separated from it by a channel three-eighths of a mile in width. This island, which extends north and south, is about one mile and a quarter in length and a quarter of a mile in breadth. Towards the middle of the island stands a pretty high hill, and through the southern end of the hill is a perforation which, when the island is viewed at some distance, gives it the appearance of an inverted needle with its eye; and it is not improbable that from this circumstance the island takes its name.* At the same end of the island is a rock, which, when one sails by it, bears a striking resemblance to a Dutch ship with masts. On the western side, a little above the level of the sea, is a deep cavity in the rock, capable of containing several hundreds of people, and as the rock projects over the mouth of it, they would be completely concealed from the view of those sailing by it: from this cavity an aperture proceeds almost through the whole island; it is entirely dark, and in some places can be passed with difficulty; but people have penetrated so far into it, that they could hear distinctly the roaring of the waves at the other side of the island. In a hill on the east side is found a little native copper, which contains a small quantity of gold: the whole hill, to a certain extent, abounds with cupreous particles, and some tons of the ore was brought to Kongsberg to be examined; but it was found that it was not sufficiently rich to defray the expence of working it. The inhabitants of this island are distinguished by their industry, the care which they take of their sheep, and the neat manner in which they prepare their turf for fuel.

10. Hestoe is a small island to the west of Sudstromoe, and separated from it by a narrow channel three-eighths of a mile in width. It extends south-east and north-west, and is scarcely three quarters of a mile in length; in breadth it is about one-sixth of a mile.

11. Kolter lies north-west from Hestoe and west from Suderoe, at the distance of one-sixth of a mile from the former and three-eighths of a mile from the latter. It extends south-east and north-west, in length about half a mile, and in breadth scarcely one-sixth of a mile. In the northern part of the island is a green hard kind of clay, from which the inhabitants form merely with their hands a clumsy sort of small pots, without glazing, which they burn in the fire and use for holding their milk.

Vaagoe lies to the west of Nordstromoe, and is separated from it by a channel one-sixth of a mile in width; it is nearly three miles long, and about one mile and five-eighths broad.

13. Myggenæs, on the west side of Vaagoe, and separated from it

* *Naalsoe* signifies Needle Island.

it by a channel three quarters of a mile wide, extends east and west about seven-eighths of a mile in length; its breadth is inconsiderable. The coast is every where exceedingly steep, especially on the south side, where it consists of perpendicular rocks, from two hundred and fifty to two hundred fathoms in height.

To the west of Myggenæs, at the distance of twenty fathoms, is a small island, which evidently appears to have been torn from the former by some violent convulsion of nature. It is almost a quarter of a mile in length, eight hundred ells in breadth, and consists of small basaltic columns placed close to each other, which are best seen at the south corner. On the west or north-west side it is about thirty fathoms high, and is nearly surrounded by rocks, which project over the surface of the sea. This is the only place in the Feroe islands frequented by that large sea-fowl the gannet, or soland goose, *pelecanus basanus*. On the north-west the island proceeds with an even declivity towards the south, so that it has a resemblance here to the roof of a house. As a proof of the luxuriance of the grass on this small basaltic island, it will be sufficient to mention, that it can maintain both winter and summer twenty oxen and forty sheep, and that the oxen fed here are the fattest and give the best beef in all the islands. It has, indeed, been remarked in the Feroe islands, that the flesh of those sheep which feed on basaltic grass is fatter and better tasted than that of other places.

14. Sandoe lies to the north of Stromoe and Hestoe, from both of which it is separated by a channel three quarters of a mile wide. It extends south-east and north-west, and is about three miles long and one mile broad. It contains five villages.

15. Skuoe, to the south-west of Sandoe, is separated from it by a channel half a mile in width. It extends south-east and north-west, and is about three quarters of a mile long and three-eighths of a mile broad. It contains the grave of the celebrated hero of the Feroe islands, Sigismund Bristesen.

16. The Greater Dimon lies half a mile south-south-east from Skuoe, and three quarters of a mile south-south-west from Sandoe. Its length from south-east to north-west is scarcely half a mile, and its breadth about one-eighth of a mile. The coast is almost every where high and steep, and is accessible only in two places, where no more than one person can ascend at a time; so that no island can be better fortified by nature. It is, indeed, impregnable; for it is impossible to starve the inhabitants, as it abounds with good fish and sea-fowls, and no ship could remain near it on account of the force of the currents. The rocks here are well stocked with fowls; and it is a curious spectacle, particularly for strangers, to see the incredible number of the winged tribe which in the summer time swarm between Great Dimon and Skuoe. It exceeds every thing that can be imagined. At certain periods they almost darken the air, and they stun the ears so much with their piercing cries, that two people in the same boat cannot hear each other. Its whole population consists of one family; and in summer, the only time the clergyman can visit the church, it is necessary

necessary to hoist him up into the island by means of a rope. On the summit, however, the island is pretty level; but, on account of the steepness of the coast, no boats can be kept here; so that the inhabitants live entirely secluded from other people, and can never quit their prison, except when some of the inhabitants of the other islands come to them with a boat.

17. Suderoe, the last and southernmost of all the Feroe islands, lies south-west from the Greater and Less Dimon, at the distance of a mile from the former and three quarters of a mile from the latter. It extends from the south-east to the north-west four miles and a quarter in length, and, where widest, is about one mile and a quarter broad. It contains ten villages and six churches. In some parts of it traces of coal have been found.

The Lesser Dimon, which lies at the distance of three quarters of a mile from the Greater Dimon, and about the same from the Suderoe, is a small uninhabited island, nearly of a circular form, one-sixth of a mile in diameter. The coast all round it is exceedingly steep, and is accessible only in three places. The whole island has the form of a hay-stack, and, when visible, might serve as a very certain mark to navigators. It abounds with sea-fowl, and contains a great number of wild sheep; but what Debes and others after him have asserted, that white sheep placed in this island change their colour and become spotted with black and afterwards entirely black, a change ascribed to the fog or sea-vapour, is entirely false; for there are here a great many white sheep which retain their colour; but the black wild sheep of the island may be a peculiar species: they are of a small size, have short curled wool, and do not readily mix with the others introduced into the island; their flesh also has a peculiar dark appearance, and in taste approaches near to that of other wild animals. These wild sheep shelter themselves from the severity of the weather in some natural caverns found in the island; and when the inhabitants of Suderoe come hither for a few days to catch sea-fowl, they take up their abode in caverns of the same kind.

(To be continued.)

A TOPIC OF CONSOLATION.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN the paper on Mottoes inserted in a late number of your elegant Miscellany, I was particularly struck with the sentence which your correspondent proposes as an inscription for a tomb-stone—"Abstulit, sed dedit:" "She (Fortune) has taken away, but she first gave." In my opinion it is not only applicable to that purpose, but might with advantage be made a topic for reflexion, as suggesting matter of consolation under the loss of friends, or other deprivations. My

meaning is, that much benefit would arise from directing the attention in these cases more to the pleasure of past possession, than to the pain of present privation. It is true, we cannot but remember that "these things were, and were most dear to us;" but is it necessary that such recollection should be always painful? Few feelings are indulged to a more faulty excess, under the notion that they are right and laudable, than that of sorrow for departed friends. It seems to be thought a tribute due to their merits, and the sole adequate expression of our affection, never to think of them without the most poignant grief. There are cases, indeed, in which the actual *loss* incurred is so overwhelming, so irreparable, that it is scarcely possible for the survivor to think upon the lamented object without associating with its image the idea of his own wretchedness. But, in general, substitutions are found, which in time fill up the breach made in the comforts of life; and all besides is a matter of sentiment. Now, the greater has been our love and esteem for a deceased friend, the more ground there must be for associating agreeable ideas with his memory, and such association is the strongest proof we can give of our value for him. Who does not admire the generous exclamation of the Duke of Ormond, after the death of his noble son Lord Ossory, "I had rather have my dead son than any living son in Christendom!" His recollection of all that his son had been was a source of pleasure, mingled, indeed, with regret for his loss, but, upon the whole, highly gratifying to his paternal feelings. In every instance in which parents have been deprived of worthy and estimable children, if they will turn their view upon what they have enjoyed, rather than upon what they have lost, they will find that many years of life have been sweetened by the society of these dear relatives, and that the prospect of their rising talents and virtues, though finally terminated by disappointment, had long been a spring of pure delight. They have not, then, been lent to their parents in vain; they have contributed their share towards filling that scene of domestic bliss which is the happiest part of the drama of human life. They have been flowers of Spring, though not fruits of Autumn.

It ought, indeed, to be considered, that no natural death is in a proper sense immature. Some come into the world with stamina enabling them to reach advanced age; others with such as give way during the period of youth: all fulfil their destined course; and, according to the fine simile of ancient philosophy, the small circle is as complete as the larger one. Regarded in this light, the amiable youth of both sexes who in the very flower of their age fall victims to consumption, may be recollected with a degree of pleasure as beings of nature's finest composition, made to be beloved and admired, who have lived out their short day, and whose existence has, upon the whole, been spent in giving and receiving enjoyment. If we cannot forbear grieving that they are no more, we may rejoice that they have been, and cherish a soothing remembrance of all the time they have spent with us, except the comparatively short period of their decline, which, too, may have been not without its endearing circumstances.

And

And I know not whether the retrospect of a life thus brought to a close, and no longer exposed to the vicissitudes and hazards of the human condition, be not more satisfying to the mind than the prospect of what may still happen to those whom we are to leave behind us. It was nature that dictated to Shakespear the sentiment expressed in the simple ditty which is sung over the innocent and beautiful Fidele.

> Fear no more the heat o' th' sun,
> Nor the furious winter's rages;
> Thou thy worldly task hast done,
> Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages, &c.

There is also an escape from moral dangers by early death which may serve to reconcile the event to a reflecting mind; for what can be more gratifying in our recollection of those whom we loved when living, than that they should have left a name unsullied by the errors and vices with which the world so much abounds? With this feeling I have sometimes regarded the decease of some great and conspicuous character in public life, in the full bloom of honour and reputation, as a most fortunate circumstance, by placing out of the reach of change or failure an excellence which it is a high moral pleasure to contemplate. Wolfe died a youthful victor without a foible or a blemish. Longer life could have added little more to his fame, but might possibly have taken much away.

To revert to the topic with which I began—Every blessing bestowed upon us by Providence has been given with the purpose that we should make the best of it, and we contradict its kind intention when we convert the gift into a cause of affliction. It will, perhaps, be urged, that feeling is involuntary, and that thought cannot be diverted from its current. But this is not altogether true; and we are not destitute of the power of giving one train of thought the preference to another. If, through a false refinement, rather than a natural necessity, we chuse to dwell only upon such associations as are calculated to excite painful emotions, when there are others which would lead to pleasing ones, we renounce the dictates of good sense and philosophy, to assume the ungrateful part of self-tormentors.

MENTOR.

BIBLICAL REMARKS.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN his very useful and much admired publication the *Horæ Biblicæ*, Mr. Butler has expressed a wish that "some person would collect and publish together, with such observations as the subject occasionally requires, the various prolegomena of Walton, Mill, Wetstein,

stein,* Griesbach," &c. However valuable a great proportion of the matter contained in these prolegomena, or however desirable the general information which they afford on scripture criticism may be considered, there is yet such an admixture of other subjects connected with the peculiar views of the editors, and of controversial topics, that I cannot but think (especially considering the bulk to which such a collection must extend a work of the kind) it would be a much more eligible plan to compress in an English abridgment or selection all that is of real and essential importance in those works. Such a plan would have the advantage of methodizing in a well-digested arrangement the history of all the known MSS., ancient versions, and critical editions of the scriptures.

A short sketch of this nature is, indeed, given in the preface to the recently published "Improved Version of the New Testament, formed upon the basis of Archbishop Newcome's Translation;" and from the manner in which this is executed, it is much to be regretted that a more extended and comprehensive view of the subject did not constitute a part of the design of its able editors. With the assistance, however, to be derived from all these, and many other excellent aids,† and with the ample materials which they afford to build upon, there is scarcely any literary undertaking that could promise greater interest in the execution, or be more likely to prove useful, as a convenient and serviceable guide to the biblical student, than an introductory compilation of this kind.

I cannot dismiss the subject of scripture criticism without expressing a wish, that as a supplement to the new version of the Testament, its editors would undertake the publication of a selection of notes from the most approved commentators. A judicious collection from the ablest expositors of such notes as are explanatory of the incidents which suggested our Saviour's parables and discourses, as well as of their application; of the historical facts, customs, and various local circumstances alluded to by the sacred writers; and of the sects, divisions, and disputes which gave rise to the several apostolical epistles, would be of important use in facilitating and giving an interest to the study of the sacred volume. It may, perhaps, be objected to such a plan, that there is already a vast collection of commentaries, and various other expository treatises, the result of the laborious study of men of all parties and persuasions. But it will surely be admitted that most of these contain considerably more matter than is at all necessary

* The prolegomena of Wetstein have been separately published by Dr. Semler; and as the more recent labours of Griesbach have superseded the use of his Testament, it would be a most acceptable addition to the library of the scriptural critic, if his valuable notes were also reprinted in a separate form.

† In particular from Marsh's edition of Michaelis, Butler's Horæ Biblicæ above cited, Harwood's Introduction to the New Testament, and also from the highly interesting communications of your correspondent Mr. Dyer, the plan of whose letters might be very advantageously extended by any person competent to the undertaking, to the history of rare MSS. in *foreign* libraries.

cessary to the simple and perspicuous elucidation of scriptural obscurities, and many of them, perhaps, written merely with a view to serve the purposes of a particular party or set of opinions. A collection, therefore, of notes, strictly illustrative of the sacred text, compiled in a neat and judicious arrangement, and free from the influence of prejudice, or partiality to any favourite system, would be not only a most valuable but indispensable accompaniment to the study of the Christian scriptures.

V. M.

Aug. 28, 1808.

Postscript.—It was not till after I had addressed the preceding letter to you that Mrs. Cappe's intentions became known to me. Should you think that letter worthy a place in your respectable Miscellany, my views and ideas on this subject will be sufficiently explained. A leading object, I confess, in the suggestions contained in that letter, was to ascertain, whether it was likely that such a publication would be undertaken by any person more competent to execute it with ability and judgment, having, in the event of its not proving so, formed an intention of devoting a considerable portion of leisure and professional study to the preparation of such a work. The plan laid down by Mrs. Cappe, as far as I can form an idea of it, from the short sketch in your literary intelligence (which I could have wished had been more detailed, especially as to the mode adopted with regard to the text, whether it is designed to embrace *an entire* harmony of the four Gospels, and whether in the words of the received, or a corrected version), seems wholly to supersede the necessity of such an undertaking, as far at least as concerns the historical scriptures of the New Testament.

I am anxious, however, to learn, and I am persuaded Mrs. C.'s known liberality of sentiment upon all occasions will readily induce her to give the information, whether she has any future view of extending her plan to the remaining books? If this, or any further information with respect to her present intentions, be not incompatible with the interest of her literary labours, the communication of it through the channel of the Athenæum would be considered a particular obligation by

V. M.

Sept. 6, 1808.

For the Athenæum.

AUGSBURG IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

THE manners and customs of the Germans, previously to the fifteenth century, partook in no small degree of the grossness and ferocity

ferocity of their pristine character. But at that epocha, the arts and sciences, whose culture then rendered Italy the seat of refinement and civilization, first came into notice amongst the German states; their propagation was accelerated by the invention of printing; and at the beginning of the sixteenth century a most remarkable change had already taken place in the German character, for which it was chiefly indebted to the strenuous efforts of men, whose career would have added lustre to the most brilliant eras of literary history. It was at this period, no less memorable by the reformation of Luther, the abolition of the "Jus Diffidationis,"* the discovery of gunpowder, and the establishment of standing armies, that commerce acquired a stability, and disseminated a taste for luxury, to which the Germans had before been total strangers.

If a superior refinement of manners, and more marked addiction to the fashionable follies of that day, distinguished any state above its compeers, certainly it was Augsburg. This city was the greatest mart, and its inhabitants the wealthiest individuals, of the age: suffice it to say, it was the residence of the Fuggers, a family whose name will remain unperishable as long as the annals of mercantile celebrity shall endure. Sebastian Münster, in his "Universal Cosmography,"† speaks of the Augsburgers in these terms: "The people of Augsburg, particularly the women, are in their persons handsome, in their dress costly, in their feasts sumptuous, in their words and gesticulations bombastic, in their dealings wary, in their manners foreign, and, on account of their great wealth, exceedingly self-conceited." He observes again, "each is ambitious to excel his neighbour in the decoration of his house and its appendages: several merchants have had themselves ennobled: the poor are well treated, and the able men who superintend education both within and without the city are handsomely remunerated.

Another cotemporary writer, Sebastian Frank, observes in his Cosmography, "We find the inhabitants of Augsburg, above all other people, cheerful, friendly, conversible, and affable: the women are handsome and *feminine;* they possess such a stateliness of manner, that I have heard it mentioned as a saying, stateliness has every where else degenerated into arrogance, but in Augsburg it is exceeding seemly, for they have a peculiar art of combining it with meekness, and are extremely careful and splendid in their dress."

A panegyric

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* This sanguinary custom, an inexhaustible source of intestine discord, was abrogated by the enlightened Emperor of Germany, Maximilian I. who observed on a certain occasion, "The prince, to whom the history of his country, so necessary for its good government, is unknown, deserves not my esteem." *Grunbeck's Life of Max. I.* p. 81.

† This work has acquired him the appellation of the German Strabo. It consists of six books, and was published by him in 1550, at Basel, where he was professor of the Hebrew tongue, in which, as well as in the Oriental languages, he was eminently skilled.

A panegyric of the same date* passes the subsequent eulogium on this city.

This fair renown, what may it mean?—
That every citizen is seen
To spare nor cost nor industry
Whereby his children learn'd may be.

Thus every art and science too
With eager diligence they woo;
That so, in time, they may be found,
In wisdom as in learning, sound.

And then the charms of the fair sex inspire him with a spirit of animation, which displays itself in the following curious rhapsody:

How wond'rous charming and how sweet
The maiden there our sight doth greet;
In discourse joking, mark! how free
She answers each with ready glee,
Yet modest still; to me at least
Doth 't seem. And yet I cannot feast
Enough my senses on this scene.

* * * *
* * * *

I saw the dames of mighty men,
Chaste and lovely was their mien;
With such a *pond'rous* gait they pac'd,
As would the gods themselves have grac'd.
Before them went the damsel's host
With carols, such as nobles boast;
They shone as bright as e'er was giv'n
The starry world to shine from heav'n:
Methought that Venus, beauteous dame,
With her gay suite on Terra came.

I will not presume to determine whether this versification of the sixteenth century would or would not rank in successful competition with some of our modern poetasters. He takes occasion afterwards to vent these strains on the musical talents of the Augsburg ladies.

The

* Written by Samuel Frengelius von Friedenthal, a native of Breslau, and not unknown for his learning and poetry. In 1585 Frengelius recited his panegyric entited, *Augustae Vindelicorum urbis in Germania augustissimae brevis et succincta adumbratio.* It was also printed, but is become extremely scarce. I have given an almost literal translation of it, that the singular spirit of the original may be preserved.

The fair ones there have mighty skill,
And know to bend their voice at will;
Around we hear them praises ringing
To thee, thou noble art of singing!!!

Baths had become an article of the last importance in the dwellings of the rich, and they were frequently ornamented in a superb manner. The celebrated family of the Fuggers excelled all others in the magnificence of their buildings, one of which still remains in the Weinmarkt at Augsburg; it is well known as containing a bath, in tolerable preservation, whose sides, &c. are adorned with paintings in fresco. They are supposed to be the work of Titian, who resided with the Fuggers in the year 1530, and received 3000 crowns for his labours. The furniture of the wealthy was in this century of great value, consisting of various vessels of silver, glass cups finely cut, valuable specimens of which are still preserved by some families, rich carpets, and carvings in wood beautifully executed, with which they ornamented their ceilings, doors, canopies, chairs, &c. A ceiling carved in this taste, and supposed to have cost at least two thousand pounds, is still extant at the palace of Count Fugger, at Kirchheim: the ceiling of the "golden saloon," in the guildhall at Augsburg, is also enriched with similar carving, but it is of later date. The wealthy frequently displayed in their houses a motley assemblage of monkeys, parrots, peacocks, guinea-fowls, turkey-cocks, which were then accounted great curiosities, and other foreign animals.

Both sexes were emulous in the sumptuousness of their apparel: this was either of velvet or silk, loaded with precious stones, and adorned in winter with expensive furs; but their chief ornament was massive gold chains. Frengelius says on this head,

Bracelets of jewels rare, combin'd
With gold and silver, do we find
The citizens throughout assume;
For such is Fashion's lordly doom.

Many of the wealthiest possessed carriages even in that day, and were attended by servants in livery. Thus continues our poet:

Horses and coaches I saw there,
With gold and velvet's splendid glare:
In such, a prince of former days,
Or princess, would have lolled at ease:
None else such pageantry can claim.

In fine, the panegyrist, on being highly regaled by Dr. Pradel, one of the most celebrated lawyers of his age, speaks to this effect of the banqueting at Augsburg:

To give a gorgeous, noble treat,
With such solemnity and state,

With

With roses deck'd and flow'rets fair,
Of pomp and serving zeal such share;
To see such various shew of dress,
In guests, who to the banquet press;
Such costly wine from foreign lands,
In many a chalice rare which stands;
And thus a poet to respect!
Can more a stranger guest expect?

Towards the close of the first half of the sixteenth century, the theatrical feats of the minstrels *(minnesänger)* and scholars of the Latin gymnasia were much in vogue. We are told, drinking was carried to such an immoderate excess, that having reduced themselves to the state of brutes, the men were laid senseless on couches; nor was dancing carried to a less disgusting pitch of extravagance. In most other parts of Germany civilization had certainly made no such rapid strides; for a Parisian princess declared to her suitor, the duke of Cleves, "I had rather sleep with a petty French nobleman on straw, than with a German prince on down."*

* Köhler's Müntz belustigung, III. p. 367.

DECIUS.

SYNONYMIC ELUCIDATIONS CONTINUED.

Luck. Hap. Fortune. Chance.

In the north of England *to lake* means to play, to game. The collateral Gothic infinitive *laikan* means *to exult*. Food staked any where, in order to draw wild animals into a snare, is called *lock-speise* in German. From these indications it seems probable, that the substantive *luck* must originally have meant *the stake*, the thing played for; next, *the game*, or critical point which determines success; and, lastly, *the unknown cause of casual event* in general. Good luck. Bad luck. When this word is used without an epithet, it has a favourable sense: "he has a run of luck," that is, of good luck: "he is a lucky man," that is, he wins, he succeeds.

Hap is Welch, and fortune is Latin, for luck. The adjectives happy and fortunate are taken in a favourable sense. Mishap and misfortune are the antithetic substantives; but unhappy and unfortunate are the antithetic adjectives. What games were in early use among the Welch and the Latins, is of difficult investigation. It should seem that *hap* must have meant *a stake raised by the contribution of numbers;* for the venture, or hap hazarded, seems not to be a very stimulant idea: *perhaps* I may succeed. On the contrary, the thing won must have borne a large relation to the venture: the *happus*, the winner, or *happy* man, announces a complete satisfaction. *Hap-nap*, whence our hobnob, is Cimbric for rashly. A *mishap*, a *disappointment*

pointment as to the prize, describes but a subordinate degree of vexation. *Fors*, whence fortune, means *a lot;* and probably describes a stake at some principal game, in which the venturers were fewer than at the game of hap; for a *misfortune* is a more serious evil than a *mishap;* yet to be *fortunate* is less than to be *happy*.

Luck, then, seems to be the abstract expression, or personification, of even chance: *fortune*, of chance moderately uneven: and *hap*, of very uneven risk. To be *lucky* is less than to be fortunate; to be *fortunate* is less than to be happy: yet to be *unlucky* is more constantly mortifying, and to be *unhappy* is more decidedly pungent, than to be occasionally unfortunate.

Chance means *a die*. It is consequently applicable to even or uneven risks, to sise-ace, or ames-ace competitions. Whatever results from causes as uncertain in their operation, as the resting of a die on any one of its six bases, is said to happen, or take place, by chance.

Uncommon chances common men can't bear.

The adjective *chance* excites no favourable idea: chance medley is accidental slaughter: the meeting of chance companions may be unlucky or lucky: a chanceful jeopardy is a risk leaning to disappointment. Mischance is the antithetic substantive. Rhetors call fortune fickle, and chance blind. *Haply* means by chance; *happily* means by good chance. He who gains riches is said to acquire a fortune, even when they are attained by slow industry. Mishap excites the idea of a somewhat ridiculous distress; as when a man bruises his nose, or is jilted by his mistress. Luck is not used, like hap and fortune, of a man's general lot, or destiny in life; but only of particuliar occurrences.

To yield. To yeld. To wield. To weld.

It is much to be wished that some orthographic variation could be introduced, for the purpose of distinguishing two verbs so different in origin and meaning as those commonly spelled *to yield*.

Among the blacksmiths and armourers were current the verbs *weldan*, to take hold, and *yldan*, to let go. This Anglo-Saxon verb *weldan* has bequeathed to us two English verbs (1.) *to weld*, which we apply only to hot iron, and (2.) *to wield*, which we apply only to cold iron. *To weld a poker* is to join on an additional piece of hot iron: *to wield a poker*, is to employ it for stirring the fire. A welding heat. To wield a sword.

The other verb *yldan*, to let go, has bequeathed to us one *to yield*, which signifies to leave hold, to give up, to surrender.

He yields not in his fall,
But fighting dies.

And courage never to submit, or yield.

He saw the fainting Grecians yield.

But

But there is another verb, which would be better spelled *to yeld*, and which signifies to afford, to supply, to produce in value, to pay in money; it is derived from *gold*, money, and, by a vowel-change common in Anglo-Saxon verbs, is written *geldan* in the infinitive. Chaucer often employs this verb, with the pure and original orthography, in the phrase *God yeld you*, for *God reward you*.

This is the verb intended to be used by Arbuthnot in the sentence, "Strabo tells us the mines at Carthagena *yielded* daily to the value of twenty-five thousand drachms." The translators of the Bible have also authorized the like corruption: "The wilderness yielded food for them."

Surely it would be better to restore the spelling *to yeld*; whenever *to yield* is used for to afford, to supply, to reward.

In the following lines of Dryden it is not obvious which *to yield* is employed.

Air

That *yields* a passage to the whistling sword,
And closes when 'tis gone.

Land. Field. Acre.

We say corn-land, pasture-land; corn-fields, hay-fields; acres of corn, acres of clover: these words all denote occasionally a portion of cultivated ground. Land does not imply inclosure, or admeasurement; nor does it exclude these ideas. Field implies inclosure, but not measurement; yet does not exclude the latter idea. Acre implies measurement, but not inclosure; without, however, excluding the latter idea.

I do not understand the word *land*. *Field* is the participle *fell'd*: it means land clear'd of its trees. *Acre* is a specific measure of extent, which, no doubt, comes to us from the east, since it is a word common to the Persian and the Gothic languages.

Gulf. Abyss.

Gulf (κολπος) is Greek for *hollow*; and abyss (ἄβυσσος) is Greek for *bottomless*; hence the essential character of a gulf is concavity, and of an abyss is profundity. The gulf of Triest. The gulf of Tarento. The gulf of Genova. The abysses of ocean. The abyss of hell. The inscrutable abysses of metaphysics.

To gaze. To stare.

Both these verbs describe fixing the eyes intently and perseveringly on an object; but to stare is an unwelcome, and to gaze is a welcome attention. A woman will complain she is stared at by a man who thinks he is gazing. To stare another in the face is a breach of good manners. When Christ first appeared to his disciples after the resurrection, they gazed on him with astonishment and joy. A star-gazer.

My enemies, who come to stare
At my affliction. *Milton.*

To

To Soar. To Fly. To Plane. To Swoop. To Hover.

Motion in the air is an idea common to these words: soar is the effort to ascend, swoop the effort to descend, flight the effort at progress, plane the effort at horizontal gliding, hover the effort to support a nearly stationary position. The sky-lark sings as it soars. The flight of the swallow is swift and incessant. The sea-mew planes along the wave. The hawk hovers long over its prey, before it swoops to seize it.

Paralogism. Sophism.

An argument unintentionally fallacious is called a paralogism; intentionally fallacious is called a sophism: the one word being Greek for *mis-reasoning*, and the other for *wiseness*.

If a syllogism agree with the rules given for the construction of it, it is called a true argument: if it disagree with these rules, it is a paralogism, or false argument. *Watt's Logic.*

When a false argument is purposely made to put on the appearance of a true one, then it is properly called a sophism. *Watt's Logic.*

Yet the word *sophist* has no such odious meaning, but is applied to ancient professors of philosophy, without prejudging the fallacy of their systems.

Nation. People.

Nation marks the connexion of *birth*, and people that of *common subordination:* the one being derived from *natus*, born, and the other from *populus*, a stock of bees. A nation is a great family; a people a great incorporation. We do not yet oppose the American nation to the British nation, because the ties of kindred, the marks of common birth and descent, are not yet withdrawn; but we oppose the American people to the British people, because the ties of common subordination are wholly cut asunder. The word *nation* excludes, the word *people* includes, foreign residents.

The people of Prussia, the people of Saxony, are parts of the German nation.

OBSERVATIONS ON WASPS.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

NO subject has afforded greater interest to the naturalist than the economy of the various animals which live in communities, and form themselves into societies for their mutual accommodation and advantage. Amongst quadrupeds, the beavers furnish us with the most remarkable instance of this; and we have, from our infancy, been led to admire the structure and convenience of the houses which they build, formed of earth and timber, most exactly suited to all their

their wants, and raised several stories high, so as to secure them against inundations from the streams on the banks of which their habitations are constructed. Many of the insect tribe have been not less the objects of our admiration; and the bee and the ant have, from the earliest ages, been pointed out to us as examples of order, regularity, and industry. Our attention to the bee, and our regard for this little animal, have no doubt been increased by the gratification we have derived from partaking so largely in the sweet fruits of its industry, and from no part of our property ever becoming the object of its depredations. The wasp, on the contrary, not only affords us no advantage from its labour, but continually infests our tables in search of food, and rapaciously attacks the choicest fruits in our gardens. Had we not such grounds for prejudice against it, I am not sure whether the structure and economy of the little republics formed by this active insect would not be at least as interesting as the hive of the bee.

Two species of wasp we are all well acquainted with, the hornet, and the common wasp. The hornet, the largest of the tribe, generally forms its nest under the eaves of houses or in the hollows of trees. The species is not numerous, and, as far as my observation goes, is now less frequently met with than it was some years ago. In its structure the nest of the hornet is very similar to that of the common wasp, and consists of a series of cakes placed one above another, each containing a number of hexagonal cells, in which are lodged the eggs and future progeny of the animal; the whole surrounded by a sort of laminated paper-work, produced from the inner bark and the glutinous exudations of vegetables.

The second species, the common wasp, forms its nest under-ground, generally within some dry hedge bank. The ranges of cakes are kept separate, and at regular distances from each other, by little columnar supports, here and there interposed. When the nest has not been disturbed, and the season has been favourable, it has been calculated that not less than 30,000 young wasps have been produced from a single nest.

Besides the two species of wasp which I have mentioned, I have, in the course of the last three or four years, repeatedly met with a third, which has formed its nest in some tree or bush, suspending it from one of the boughs. I have most frequently seen it in a currant or gooseberry bush, but I have also met with it in the larch tree. When first found, the outer covering of the nest has frequently not exceeded the size of a hen's egg, and has much of the same form. By the broader end it has been firmly attached to a bough of the tree, whilst the narrower end has hung downwards, and near to its lower extremity has had two small openings in it, the one for the entrance, the other for the egress, of the wasps. The nests have been gradually increased in size, so that at length some of those I have seen have been enlarged to twelve or fourteen inches in diameter. This enlargement appears to be effected by a gradual hollowing out of the interior surface of the outer covering of the nest, and at the same time a continued deposition on its exterior surface of the paper-work of which it

is

is composed. When the nest has reached its full size, its appearance not very distantly resembles that of a large cocoa-nut, suspended by its broader end; while the holes for the entrance and exit of the wasps may be compared to the eyes of the nut. The outer covering is of a grey ash-colour, and is disposed in laminæ so as to allow the wet which may fall upon it readily to run off, whilst none is admitted into its interior. When the nest is fully completed, the outer covering, consisting of a number of these layers of paper-work, is usually about an inch in thickness, and, when opened, it is found to contain eight or ten cakes, disposed horizontally with respect to the suspended situation of the nest. These cakes are not kept separate from each other by any pillars, as is the case with the cakes formed by the common wasp, but are so fixed to the outer covering as to be kept at regular distances. Whilst the outer covering has been increasing in dimensions, I have repeatedly seen gooseberries or currants so matted in with it, as to become a portion of the fence.

The part of the country in which these nests have been found has been the southern part of Lancashire and the north of Cheshire. This wasp is of a smaller size than the common wasp, and the yellow lines upon it are less bright and vivid. Wasps of this species, attaching their nests to the boughs of trees, are, I am informed, frequent in the northern parts of the United States, and in the British colonies in America. It may be that some of your correspondents have met with them in other parts of the island than those I have mentioned; if not, does it seem an improbable idea that a few of the species have been brought across the Atlantic in some vessel to Liverpool, and are thence dispersing themselves throughout the country? Further information on this subject would, I conceive, be gratifying to many of the readers of the Athenæum.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

OBSERVATOR.

PROPOSAL FOR EDITING AN ENGLISH DICTIONARY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

HAVING observed of late several proposals from different quarters for publishing an improved Dictionary of the English Language, I feel myself induced to offer my sentiments on this subject, which I request the favour of making public through the medium of your highly-esteemed miscellany. It must be acknowledged by all, that a work of this nature is in a peculiar manner a national concern; that it ought to be at once the repository and standard for the literature of a people; and that it derives its whole value from the degree of confidence which it enjoys from the public at large. Instead, therefore, of multiplying the rash attempts of individuals to effect what surpasses

surpasses the powers of any one man, and thus crowding on the world several ponderous works of the same kind, no one of which is complete, I cannot help thinking that if those who have directed their attention to philological pursuits would unite themselves into a society similar to the French Academy, the labours and opinions of many might be so combined as to give solidity, consistency, and authority to the whole. In this case I should recommend that one (or two at most) should be the principal labourers; that the rest should be contributors, revisers, or correctors; that a certain portion, when prepared, should be revised at stated periods by the society once, twice, or oftener, as might be found necessary; and that nothing should be admitted for publication unsanctioned by a majority of the members.

As this is, however, but a general proposition, I have only to add, that as soon as I have published the third part of the "Preceptor and his Pupils," which will be a preparatory work on the force and signification of the English words, for the use of schools, I intend to offer a specimen of what I conceive to be a proper analysis of words for the purpose of a dictionary; and should my views meet the public approbation, I shall then willingly submit the result of my labours to the decision of such a literary tribunal.

Yours, &c. GEORGE CRABB.

Walworth, Sept. 9, 1808.

INSTINCT OF VEGETABLES EXEMPLIFIED.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

KNOWING that you admit into your valuable work communications on subjects of natural history, I take the liberty of noticing in a cursory way the following curious observation, which I think tends greatly to prove the *instinctive power* that some of the *vegetable tribe* are endowed with.

Having lately planted a row of the beans called scarlet-runners under a hedge of privet and lilac in full vigour, I found the beans, on their increasing in growth, did not catch hold of the branches of these shrubs for their support, but rather recoiled from them in a different direction, extending their tendrils over an adjacent gravel walk, and of their own accord undoing all the assistance I had given for training them up the hedge. It occurred to me that nature pointed out these vegetating props as not proper for the occasion, and, to bring it to the proof, I caused some dry old pea-sticks to be stuck here and there close to the hedge, and, without attempting to bias the leaders of the beans, I found in a few days they had in almost every instance caught hold of the dry sticks, and were making rapid approaches in all directions towards this salutary aid.

It has long been known that cucumbers and other succulent plants may be induced to send forth their shoots most luxuriantly in the direction

rection of any moist body kept at a moderate distance from the plant; for instance, a sponge loaded constantly with water, and moved gradually away as the shoot extends, will entice its branches to follow it in any direction; but in this case, the moisture so absolutely necessary to the plant in question, must have some sensible effect on its vegetative process, for if the sponge is moved beyond a certain distance, where no communication of its contents can take place, it fails in its influence. Again, we see the great degree of irritability some vegetables are possessed of, the sensitive plant, the fly-trap, with many others, particularly the *Hedysarum gyrans*, a native of the East, where it is known by the name of the *Burrum Chundalli*, whose small leaves are in perpetual motion during the day, and which is increased in proportion to the degree of light they are exposed to, and as greatly diminished by the sun being obscured even behind a cloud. But in these instances the stimuli applied to them excite their several actions, and here we are acquainted with the cause; but in regard to the scarlet-runners, and their power of discriminating with such nicety between a living and a dead twig, it seems entirely beyond our power of explanation, unless we call in the aid of *Instinct*.

Perhaps, Sir, some of your readers may be induced to favour us with their observations on this subject; and as I conceive even the minutiæ of nature to be worthy of attention, I offer no apology for taking up so much of your time, but conclude very much

Yours, WM. ROOTS.

Kingston, Sept. 10, 1808.

MSS. OF WICKLIFFE'S OLD TESTAMENT.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN the last number of the Athenæum, in the account of one of Wickliffe's Testaments by Mr. Dyer, I perceive a slight error. The Translation of the whole Bible, Old and New Testament, said to be in the hand-writing of Wickliffe himself, is mentioned as having been deposited in the Library of St. John's College, Oxford, by Archbishop Laud; whereas it was given by a Fellow of the College about 1730.

It has often been a matter of surprize to me, that so fine a fragment of our literature in the fourteenth century, as the OLD *Testament* by Wickliffe, should never have been published. The manuscripts of it are, I believe, tolerably numerous, though not quite so many as those of the *New* Testament, which was edited by Mr. Lewis.

Besides the manuscript of St. John's College, the following are, I believe, the principal copies in our public libraries.

In the old *Royal Library*, at the British Museum, two copies, marked 1. C. viii. and 1. C. ix.: the second ending with the Book of Job, and having some of Lyra's Glosses at the close.

Among the *Cotton manuscripts*, in the same repository, is a copy of the

fifteenth century, with marginal annotations, in which the first eight, and part of the ninth chapters of the Book of Genesis are wanting.

Among the *Harleian manuscripts*, No. 2249 contains a part only of one of Wicliffe's Bibles, beginning in the nineteenth chapter of Joshua, and ending in the 144th Psalm; while No. 5017 contains two Books of the Maccabees, with the New Testament.

There is also a copy in the *Lansdowne collection*, which ends with the Book of Job.

In the *Bodleian Library*, No. 3882, (or MS. Fairfax 2.) is a fair manuscript, in which, at the end of the Apocrypha, we read,

"Ye eer of ye Lord MCCCCviij yis book was ended."

It is the copy which once belonged to bishop Bonner, and is mentioned in his "Book of the Seven Sacraments," 8° 1557.

There is another, from Genesis to Jeremiah, only marked in the "Catalogus Manuscriptorum Angliæ," as No. 3093; and another occurs in MS. Bodley, NE. F. 10. 4.

Other copies are said to remain at *Queen's* and *Corpus Christi Colleges*, in Oxford.

At *Cambridge*, there is one in the Library of Be'net College, numbered CXLVII. One in the Public Library, which belonged to Bishop More; and a MS. of the Testament at Emanuel College. Mr. Lewis, also, in the Life of Wicliffe, p. 49, mentions the Pentateuch only of this translation as extant in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge; a thin folio, fairly written, and entitled "Libri Mosaici."

The Catalogue of the Manuscripts of England (fol. 1689) mentions several others: in the Libraries of the collegiate Church at Westminster, and in the Cathedral at Hereford; in the Norfolk Library, now belonging to the Royal Society; and in the Library of the London Clergy at Sion College.

The Vulgate-Latin, which Wicliffe translated from, is said to have been that which Nicholas Lyra used in his Notes on the Scriptures, and which was published by Robert Stephens, in folio, at Paris, 1534; and in octavo, at Lyons, 1574.

It was Wanley's observation, that though Wicliffe is commonly said to have translated the Bible out of Latin into English, he could never meet with such a book with the name of Wicliffe written therein by the first hand.* Not to mention, he adds, what Sir Thomas More wrote, that there were then divers translations of scripture into English, allowed by authority; and that the Wyclivites were only charged with keeping certain Prefaces to Biblical Books of Wicliffe's composure.

Huss, however (in his replication against John Stokes) who was nearly contemporary, speaks of the translation as the entire work of Wicliffe; and the same is said by Crowley, in the Prologue to Piers Plowman's Visions. (Edit. 4°. Lond. 1550).

What is affirmed by Sir Thomas More appears grounded on mistake;

* See the Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts, No. 1666.

take; and Mr. Lewis's Life of Wicliffe, p. 329, supposes that having read Lyndwood's Gloss* on the words *noviter compositus*, in Archbishop Arundel's Constitution against translating the Bible into English, Sir Thomas too hastily concluded that there were other old translations of the Bible before Wicliffe's time, and that it was agreed by the clergy that the English Bibles so translated should remain.

One of the principal of these supposed translations is mentioned by several writers as the work of John Trevisa, canon of Westbury, in Wiltshire, about 1387, the translator of Higden's Polychronicon; but the truth appears to be, that Trevisa translated no more of the Bible than certain sentences painted on the chapel walls of his patron, in Berkeley Castle.†

The different manuscripts which have been already enumerated of the English Bible of the fourteenth century, as far as they have been examined, are indisputably copies of the same version. And from internal evidence, as well as from the "Prologue" which is ascribed to Wicliffe, we have ground for something more than a presumption that the whole was an united labour. *The Work of the Lollards:* in part only translated, though altogether superintended by *their leader* WICLIFFE, about the year 1382.

As a specimen of the translation, I have selected, from one of the manuscripts in the King's Library, the SONG OF MOSES.

"*Thanne Moises song, and the sones of Israel, this Song to the Lord; and thei seiden,*

"Synge we to the Lord for he is magnefied gloriousli; he castide doū the hors and the stiere into the See. My strengthe and my preisyng is the Lord, & he is maad to me into heelthe, this is my god: y schal glorifie hym the god of my fadir: & y schal enhaunce hym, the Lord is as a man fiztē: his name is almizti. He castide doū in to the See the charis of farao and his oost, hise chosū p'ncis weren drenchid in the reed see, the deepe watris hiliden them: thei zeden doū īto the depthe as a stoon, Lord thi rizt hond is magnyfied in strengthe: Lord thi rizt hond smoot the enemye: and in the mychilnesse of thi glorie thou hast put doū alle myn adu'faryes; thou sentist thine ire that deuouride hem as stobil: and watris weren gaderid in the spirit of thi woodnesse, flowīge watir stood: depe watris weren gaderid ī the middis of the see: the enemy seide, y schal pursue & y schal take, y schal departe spuylis: my soule schal be fillid: I schal drawe out my swerde: myn hond schal sle hem. Thi spirit blew; and the See hilide hem, thei weren drenchid as leed, ī grete watris. Lord who is lyk thee ī stronge men: who is lyk thee, thou art greet doc

* "Ex hoc quod NOVITER COMPOSITUS, apparet quod libros, libellos, vel tractatus in Anglicis vel alio Idiomate prius translatos de Textu Scripturæ legere non est prohibitum.

† Trevisa himself, in his Dialogue with his Lord, preserved among the Harleian MSS. No. 1900-6, seems to acknowledge this. After enumerating a variety of translations of a general kind, his Lord says, "Also thou wost whare the Apocalips is ywrite in the Walls and Roof of a Chapel, bothe in Latin and Frensche."

doere in hoolÿnesse; ferdful & p'isable, and doynge miraclis, thou heldist forth thin hond, & the erthe deuouride hem: Thou were ledere, in thi m'ci, to thi puple, which thou azen bouztest, and thou hast bore hym in thi strengthe, to thin holi dwellyng place: puplis stieden and weren wroothe: sorewis helden the dwelleris of filistiym; thane the pryncis of Edom weren disturblid: tremblyng helde the strōge men of Moab: Alle the dwelleris of Canaan weren starke. Inward drede falle on hem: & outward drede ī the greetnesse of thin arm; be thei maad unmouable as a stoon: til thi puple passe lord, til this thi puple passe; whom thou weldidist, thou schalt brynge hem in and thou schalt plaūte in the hil of thin eritage: ī the moost stidefast dwellyng place which thou hast wrouzt Lord, Lord thi seyntuarie which thin hondis made stidefast. The Lord schal regne in to the world & ferth'e. Forsothe Farao a ridere entride with his charis & knyztis in to the see: and the Lord brouzte the watris of the Se on hē; sotheli the sones of Israel zeden bi the drie place, in the myddis of the See.

"*Th'for Marie profetesse, the sister of Aaron: took a Tympan in kir hond, & alle the wȳmēn zeden out aftir tyr with tympans cūpanyes: to whiche sche song before and seide,* Synge we to the Lord: for he is magnyfied gloriously he castide doū īto the See the hors and the stiere of hym.

I am, Sir, &c. E,

REMARK ON HORACE.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

I KNOW not whether any of the critics or commentators of Horace have taken notice of a passage in the fifth ode of the third book, the subject of which is the noble conduct of Regulus on his return to Rome in the condition of a Carthaginian captive; where the poet appears to me to have fallen into a manifest violation of congruity. That illustrious Roman is recorded as an example of the simple and frugal manners of the ancient republic, no less than of its patriotism; for it is said, that upon being directed by the senate to remain with the chief command in Africa after the expiration of his consular year, he begged to be excused, on the plea that the farm of seven acres on which his family subsisted, having been robbed and deserted by a hired labourer, it became necessary for him to attend to its cultivation in person. Whether this story be strictly true or not, it proves that Regulus was traditionally regarded as a Roman of the old stamp, content, like the Curii and Fabricii, to be poor, while their country was triumphant; and, in reality, luxury, at the period of the first Punic war, had made no great progress in Rome.

But Horace, after drawing a fine picture of this unfortunate commander

mander revisiting his country in the humiliated state of a slave, and giving an opinion before the senate which he knew would subject him to the most inhuman treatment on his return to Carthage; proceeds to say, that he notwithstanding made way through the commiserating crowd which obstructed his departure, with as much unconcern, as if, "after having decided the tedious disputes of his clients, he was setting out for his Venafran or Tarentine villa."

Quam si clientum longa negotia
Dijudicatâ lite relinqueret,
Tendens Venafranos in agros,
Aut Lacedæmonium Tarentum.

Is it not obvious that the poet has here substituted the consular or patrician senator of his own time for the antique Regulus, and that he has confounded manners and persons? It may be said, indeed, that the purpose of this comparison does not require identity of person, and that he only meant to depict the air and countenance of Regulus by an illustration familiar to his readers. But in the construction of the sentence he applies the similitude to Regulus himself; nor could any reader, not otherwise informed, fail to conclude that this illustrious Roman possessed villas in the luxurious retreats alluded to.

Yours, &c. CRITO.

SONNET BY JAMES I.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

PREFIXED to Hudson's Translation of Dubartas's History of Judith, 12mo. Edinb. 1584, is the following *Sonnet*, by KING JAMES THE FIRST. Above it, evidently from a wood-block, are the initials J. R. partly within a wreath of laurel, with the Scottish crown above. I know not that this curious specimen of royal compoi tion has been any where noticed.

SONNET.

Since ye immortall sisters nine has left
All other countries lying farre or nere:
To follow him who from them all you reft,
And now hes causde your residence be here
Who thoughe a straunger yet he lov'de so dere
This Realme and me, so as he spoilde his avvne,
And all the brookes and banks, and fountains clere
That be therein of you as he hath shavvne
In this his Work: then let your breath be blavvne,
In recompence of this his willing minde,

On

On me: that sine may with my pen be draune
His praise: for though himselfe be not inclynde
Nor preaseth but to touch the Laurer tre:
Yet well he merits crovvn'd therewith to be.

I am, &c. E.

EXTRACTS FROM A MANUSCRIPT TOUR THROUGH THE COUNTIES OF GLOUCESTER, WORCESTER, SALOP, HEREFORD, AND MONMOUTH.

By a Gentleman of Literary Eminence—continued.

The most favourable elevation in a distant view of the city of Hereford above the Wye is from the north-western side. A detour of a few miles brought us to Holm-lacey, the ancient seat of the Scudamores, noticed in the Itinerary of Leland. The last nobleman of that family rebuilt the present mansion, about a century since, in a fine old park; nor has the hand of modern improvement been applied to the interior. The good taste of the Duke of Norfolk (the present proprietor) permits a perfect specimen to remain of the style of our immediate ancestors; we can still survey the apartments which Pope so frequently visited, and where he wrote his Man of Ross, in the same state as formerly. The family portraits, and the elaborate carvings by Grinling Gibbons, little inferior to those at Petworth and Chatsworth, are still a part of their venerable ornaments. In the old garden, formed on the model of Hampton Court, in Middlesex, and with a very spacious terrace, the yew trees having been originally clipped into grotesque shapes, and for many years left to regain their foliage, very nearly resemble the cypresses in a Turkish cemetery. The last Lord Scudamore was not the only person of his family who was the friend of genius. Sir James Scudamore is the legendary Scudamore of Spenser, whose tale in the fourth book of the Faery Queen is particularly interesting. His portrait equipped for a tournament, so splendid and frequent as those were in the reign of queen Elizabeth, is very conspicuous in the saloon. One such mansion, preserved in a complete state from the modernising dæmon, may be ranked amongst our national curiosities.

The face of the country shows extreme cultivation and is interesting, although without any striking feature; the hills are not of sufficient magnitude to have any decided effect. The sweeps of the Wye, with its low banks, are frequent and beautiful, and the hedgerows in this part of Herefordshire abound in the most picturesque single trees.

We now returned to the direct road through small level inclosures and hop-grounds, till we reached the Callow-hill, the prospect from which is rich but diffuse, from which description the city of Hereford is not sufficiently prominent to relieve it. After a few inequalities of ground,

ground, we arrived at Wilton castle and bridge, and having crossed the Wye, we mounted a rocky steep to the town of Ross, which is distinguished by its "heaven-directed spire," and a plantation of tall elms. Beyond the church-yard is the Prospect-ground, as it is called, a square inclosure with a bason in the centre, now exhausted, and two opposite door-ways, finished with pediments in the French style of ornamental gardening. It is now merely a field, but enough remains to shew, that the beneficent Man of Ross intended it to be a parterre.

We took boat, with the usual accommodations, and landed at Wilton, where the castle ruins are not very pleasing, yet more considerable than they at first appear to be from the water. Ivy mantles, with much luxuriance, over the remaining towers. Wilton castle continued to be for several centuries the baronial residence of the Greys of the South, to whom it gave their first title. Its present demolished state was by orders of the royalist governors of Hereford, having been burned to the bare walls during the absence of the possessor, Sir J. Bridges.

We left Ross with a lowering sky, which yet now and then promised fair weather; nor were we disappointed, for the gleams of sunshine fell, and though we had not that enchanting succession of catching lights which diffuse such exquisite variety over scenes of the same nature and description, the regularly sombre aspect was favourable to that air of gloomy grandeur which is necessarily inspired by objects of such magnitude, where every sublime characteristic is conspicuous, and every beauty is accumulated which nature has to bestow.

We wound round a gentle acclivity to the other side of Goodrich castle, which crowns a rock apparently inaccessible. It is completely baronial in its plan, and of the middle centuries after the conquest, when fortresses were made habitable in a greater degree as well as military. The ransoms which the valiant Talbot had gained from prisoners taken in the French wars were expended in re-edifying this castle, which, though sunk under the same destruction as that of Wilton, and, from the same cause, exhibits a good specimen of the habitation of the chieftains of that age. The Keep, called from a traditional circumstance Macbeth's tower, is square, small, and lofty, like the tower of a church in the Saxon style. It appears much more ancient than the surrounding buildings, but is of a totally different description from those large circular fortresses at Arundel and Berkeley, the diameter of which was then considered as too great to admit of a complete roof, and could inclose a considerable force of armed men. The four round towers are strengthened at their several bases by angular buttresses, which rise to nearly half their height, and terminate in a cone.

An accidental grouping of these ruins from one point of view brought to my recollection the effect of the castle of Gutesburg, near the city of Bonn, in Westphalia, as seen from the romantic convent of Leibenburgen. Like Goodrich it crowns a promontory, closely wooded; and, as the watch-tower rises many yards above the other

in

in the centre, the horizon being visible through the windows or fractured apertures, gave an air of magic lightness to the whole.

Every part of this once stately structure has yielded to the iron tooth of age, or the more certain demolition of war: so long ago, that the great ditch is filled with tall forest trees, amongst which an ash caught our attention as very singular, the lower branches of which droop in the most beautiful festoons, like a weeping willow. It is a faithful record of the time this spot has been desolate.

The front terrace commands a bird's-eye view of a verdant vale, with the Wye beneath, and Marcle-hill with Ross spire are the bounding distances. On the left, a fertile glen with white cottages pleasingly strewed; and as we advanced, the villages of Goodrich, Walford, and Bishop's wood become leading features. This prospect is agreeable, but, from want of particular effect, it would scarcely form a picture.

(To be continued.)

For the Athenæum.

ON THE TERMS "COMFORT" AND "COMFORTABLE."

IN every language certain distinctive peculiarities are to be met with, which partly consist in the construction, and partly in the phraseology. I shall select one of the latter description for a few remarks in this paper. The expressions, *comfort* and *comfortable*, which comprehend the ideas of convenience, ease, and satisfaction, are peculiar to the English language. It would be in vain to attempt a translation of these words into any other tongue. They are most valuable terms, and their exclusive possession by the English might well be a subject of envy to other nations. What is it, then, that is precisely meant by those words? I think they may be accurately defined in this manner: that they denote that state in which you have every thing you want for your convenience, and are, at the same time, freed from such incumbrances as might interfere with that convenience. I, therefore, place the essence of comfort in the possession and enjoyment of what a man wants, and in an exemption from incumbrances.

If that definition be correct, it will be of service to all who think it worth while to study the subject of comfort. But as the wants of individuals are different, their notions of comfort must accordingly vary: and in the same degree as the satisfaction of those wants is either easy or difficult to be procured, the enjoyment of comfort will be either attainable or out of reach. Where wants are unlimited and excessive, that consideration is entirely excluded. Comfort is a word which bears a relative signification. What would make one person comfortable, would not, perhaps, produce the same effect in another. This observation applies to both parts of our definition; to the

the satisfaction of wants, and also to the relief from incumbrances. For the same object may by one individual be considered as an incumbrance, which is not felt as such by another. A person, fond of order and regularity, will find comfort in seeing all impediments to those properties removed: another, whose disposition is negligent and careless, will not think his ease and satisfaction infringed in the midst of confusion. But, nevertheless, there are some general laws of comfort, which, while they are agreeable to the one, are, at least, not inconvenient to the other. It is in this sense that comfort must be taken, when it is spoken of absolutely. The most general wants of mankind, and the most comprehensive rules of convenience are, then, regarded. In this point of view many things are styled *comfortable*, or the contrary. Under that idea, for example, a house may be mentioned as being comfortable, though the person, to whom that sensation is to belong, as the inhabitant of the house, may be unknown. Any condition of life may, upon general grounds, be characterized in a similar manner, although some particular individuals, placed in such a situation, might not be calculated to enjoy its advantages.

G. H. Noehden.

September 11, 1808.

CLASSICAL DISQUISITIONS.

ÆSCHYLUS.

Αλλ' ω πρωτος των Ελληνων πυργωσας ρηματα σεμνα,
Και κοσμησας τραγικον ογκον. *Aristoph. Ran.* 1004.

The name of Æschylus has always maintained, and justly maintained, a high rank among those of the poets of Greece. In the works, however, of one of the first reformers of the drama, a perfect exemption from such defects as accompany the early state of every art can scarcely be expected, and it will, perhaps, at present, be safer for his admirers to rest his pretensions to fame rather on the general merits which as a poet he unquestionably possesses, than on the display of such excellencies as are peculiar to the nature of dramatic composition.

The structure of his plots, it must be confessed, is sometimes unskilful, and their circumstances little interesting, by variety or fortunate selection. The *Prometheus vinctus* is founded on a well known mythological story. The scene is laid in Scythia, in a desert country, and on a barren rock. The play opens with the appearance of Prometheus in the custody of two allegorical personages, Strength and Force. Vulcan attends with the instruments of his art, to perform the mandates of Jupiter in chaining down Prometheus to the rock. He relents, but being rebuked by Strength, reluctantly discharges

charges his office. During this scene Prometheus keeps silence, but on the departure of the ministers of his punishment, utters his complaints and expresses his resolutions of fortitude in a soliloquy. A chorus of Ocean Nymphs, having heard the strokes of Vulcan's instruments, arrive in a winged chariot. They condole with Prometheus, and enquire the cause of his misfortune, which he ascribes to his concern for the race of mortals, abandoned by the other divinities, and devoted by Jupiter to destruction. He likewise accuses the ingratitude of that deity, for the counsel and assistance which he had afforded him during the dissensions of the gods, by which he effected his triumph over the adverse party. Ocean himself now arrives, riding on a winged monster, commiserating the calamities of his kinsman, and offering such assistance as may lie within his power. He attempts in vain to check the haughty unsubmitting spirit manifested by him. In the ensuing conversation, Prometheus, in two long speeches, describes the benefits which he had conferred on the human race. Their discourse is at length interrupted by the arrival of Io, who is wandering over the earth, afflicted by madness, and pursued by the vengeance of Juno. Prometheus having again briefly related his story in answer to the enquiries of Io, the latter, for the gratification of the chorus, explains the circumstances of her own history. Prometheus then begins to predict the calamities which she is still to endure from the persecution of Juno. Being interrupted by the lamentations of Io, a dialogue follows, after which Prometheus being requested to resume his prophecies, a very frigid altercation ensues, in which he offers to Io her choice, whether she will hear the sequel of her calamities, or the account of his own deliverance, destined to be accomplished by one of her descendants. The difficulty is accommodated by the intervention of the Chorus, who entreat him to reveal the former for the sake of Io, and the latter in compliance with their request. Prometheus resumes his prophecies. Io, seized with a new attack of madness, departs, and the Chorus sings a moralizing ode, founded on the circumstances of her story. Prometheus then utters some mysterious prophecies against Jove, which reaching the ears of the god, he sends Mercury to enquire their import, which Prometheus refuses to reveal. Mercury denounces against him threats of horrible vengeance. The final scene is sublimely described by Prometheus himself in the concluding speech. "And now not in threats alone, but in deed, the earth is shaken; the hoarse roaring of thunder bellows; bright volumes of thunder flash; whirlwinds roll the dust; the winds rush from every quarter, announcing tumultuous discord; the sky is mingled in confusion with the sea. The terrific stroke of Jove is manifestly directed against me. O divine power of my mother, O heavens, holding the revolving course of the common light of all, you behold the injustice which I suffer." It is manifest that this wild story possesses few of the qualities of a just dramatic action, though the play itself, like the other works of Æschylus, abounds with passages of great poetical beauty. It has been imagined, that it was the object of the poet, by the picture of a magnanimous spirit strug-

gling against oppression, to excite in the minds of the Athenian people a hatred of tyrannical power. It is more probable that he took the story as he found it, and only sought to make it the foundation of an impressive representation. Two other tragedies were written on this subject by Æschylus, which have perished, Prometheus the bearer of fire, and Prometheus delivered. From the latter a passage of considerable length is preserved in a Latin version by Cicero.*

The arguments of the other plays it is needless to state minutely. That of the "Seven Champions against Thebes," is taken from the well known story of the first Theban war. It contains much recital and little action, but some of the lyric parts possess great excellence. The Persæ is a curious example of an historical play, founded on contemporary events; and the description of the battle of Salamis is the most circumstantial account extant of that great transaction, in which Æschylus himself bore an honourable share. The Agamemnon, Choephoræ (or bearers of libations), and Eumenides, present three successive and connected actions, commencing with the return of Agamemnon from Troy, and his assassination by his wife, and ending with the acquittal of Orestes before the tribunal of the Areopagus for the murder of his mother. The scenery and plan of the latter of these plays are not less extraordinary than those of the Prometheus. The play of the "Suppliant Virgins" is founded on the story of the daughters of Danaus, who fly to Argos, to escape from marriage with their relatives, the sons of Ægyptus. The structure is extremely simple.

It may in general be remarked of the plots of Æschylus that they are constructed with little care. He was negligent or ignorant of those arts by which later writers have introduced a complexity into their action, for the sake of exciting and suspending attention. He sometimes accomplishes the end which he has in view by rude and inartificial means. His action and narrative bear little just proportion to each other, and the parts are sometimes ill connected. He has always preserved the unity of action, and commonly that of time. That of place he has neglected in the instance of the Eumenides. On the whole, his play of the Choephoræ seems to approach most nearly to the modern idea of a just dramatic action.

Nor does this great poet seem to excel in another principal branch of the dramatic art, the delineation of character. His characters, indeed, present nothing that is incongruous, but their range is very limited, and they are commonly little more than vehicles for conveying the sentiments of the poet, sentiments, often grand and striking, but seldom marked by any lively strokes of nature. Tender feelings were little suited to his muse, and even the great passions which he depicts are sometimes sullied by a needless and disgusting atrocity. The very nature of the sentiments studied by this poet, was wholly unfavourable to the successful expression of character. He is perpetually labouring to say something great, and whatever be the character

* Tusc. Quæst. ii. 10.

character on the stage, it is always Æschylus who speaks. His Clytæmnestra has been sometimes represented as a masterly delineation of character. She is, however, so coldly wicked, that we are shocked with an atrocity, the sources of which we are at a loss to comprehend. In the Lady Macbeth of Shakspeare, the wickedness of the character is somewhat softened, partly by the influence of a lofty ambition, suggesting a motive for the commission of her crime, partly by her suffering the stings of conscience, which shew her not wholly dead to feelings of virtue, or at least not exempt from the inward punishment of vice. The jealousy of Clytæmnestra against Cassandra, and her revenge for the sacrifice of Iphigenia, are, indeed, assigned as motives of her conduct, but are not depicted so strongly as to seize the feelings or imagination of the reader. Her love for Ægisthus only increases the abhorrence in which we hold her character. She thus audaciously avows and vindicates her crime before the aged chiefs of the Argive people. "I struck him twice; with two shrieks he extended his limbs, and after he had fallen on the earth I inflicted a third wound, a grateful offering to infernal Pluto, keeper of the dead. Thus he fell, and breathed out his life, and, his blood gushing forth in a sudden stream, he sprinkled me with black drops, and I rejoiced to see them no less than the earth, richly sown, receives with gladness the rains of Jove at the springing of the buds.—I avow the deed with an intrepid soul; praise or blame me as you please, it is alike."

It must be allowed, that if neither the plots nor characters of Æschylus can claim distinguished praise, yet some of his separate scenes, by the force and elevation of his sentiments, are not inferior in powerful interest to those of any tragic writer, whether ancient or modern. We may instance a scene in the Agamemnon (mentioned by Mr. Cumberland* with merited praise) where Cassandra, under the inspiration of Apollo, describes the murder about to be transacted within the palace. Clytæmnestra and the captive prophetess appear upon the stage. The queen and the Chorus desire her to descend from her chariot. She remains silent. Clytæmnestra expresses her impatience, and demands that if ignorant of the language, she will at least make use of signs. She still is silent, and the queen departs in anger. Cassandra remains on the stage with the Chorus, when suddenly breaking her long silence, she describes, in the mysterious and solemn language of prophecy, the horrid transactions about to be executed with respect to others and herself, in such a manner as fills the mind of the reader with strong emotion, and gives the poet a full opportunity of displaying that grandeur of conception in which he delighted.

Quitting the peculiarities of dramatic excellence, and considering Æschylus chiefly in the light of a poetical writer, he is entitled in many respects to praise of the highest description. His thoughts are bold and distinctly conceived. His views of life seem to have been deeply tinctured by gloomy opinions of fate and human destiny. "In the midst of the disorders and mysteries of nature," says an elegant writer,

* Observer, No. 134.

writer, "nothing struck Æschylus more forcibly than the strange destiny of the human race—in man himself, the crimes of which he is the author, and the calamities of which he is the victim; above him, celestial vengeance, and blind fatality, one of which pursues him when guilty, the other when fortunate. Such are the doctrines which he had derived from the intercourse of sages, and which he has interspersed in almost all his pieces.—Hence that sovereign contempt which he witnesses for the false goods which dazzle our view, and that force of eloquence with which he mocks the power of fortune. 'O, human grandeur,' cries Cassandra with indignation, 'brilliant but empty images, which a shadow can obscure, a drop of water efface; the prosperity of man raises my pity more than his misfortunes."*

The Chorus of Æschylus holds a more important rank than that of the other tragic poets. Its part is much more extensive. It enters more into the action of the piece, and the songs which it chants have often a more regular structure. They abound with beautiful, though somewhat obscure, imagery.

In the dramatic parts of his plays, Æschylus indulges too much in metaphors and harsh expressions. He is seduced by a bold figure as certainly as Shakespeare by a quibble. His recitals, sentiments, and maxims are all conveyed in images, which strike sometimes by their beauty, but perhaps more frequently by their singularity. The Thracian Bosporus, on account of its dangerous passage, is called the "stepmother of ships." The guard in the Agamemnon, appointed to receive the signal of the capture of Troy, to describe the fortunate termination of his tedious office, says that his "watching has cast thrice six," a fortunate throw of the dice. Clytæmnestra observing a cloud of dust, indicating the approach of messengers from Troy, says, "thirsty dust, the brother of clay, gives me this assurance." The comparisons are sometimes ignoble. Clytæmnestra compares the tumult of a captured city to the mixture of oil and vinegar in a vessel.

Οιμαι βοην αμικτον εν πολει πρεπειν.
Οξος τ' αλειφαρ τ' εγχεας ταυτω κυτει,
Διχοστατουντ' αν, ω φιλω, προσσημηνοις. *Agamem.* 830.

The descriptions of Æschylus are sometimes debased by the admission of mean circumstances, or by puerile plays of words. His love of strong expressions and bold figures often leads him into obscurity. He

* Voyage de jeune Anacharsis, c lxix. It is, however, proper to observe, that the sentiment of Cassandra seems to be misrepresented by the French translator. The following is a literal translation of the passage of Æschylus. "Alas for human affairs! when prosperous, a shadow may overturn them; when unfortunate, the application of a moistened sponge will efface the traces. The latter I pity still more than the former," that is, I deplore the speedy oblivion of misfortune resulting from levity of mind, still more than the frail tenure by which prosperity is destined to be held. Such is the interpretation of Schutz; the passage, however, is obscure, from its conciseness, and, perhaps, some doubt may remain as to its real meaning.

He abounds with compound words of harsh construction, which, according to the metaphor of Aristophanes, in the passage prefixed to this paper, elevate themselves like lofty towers in the midst of his sentences.

Such are the faults of this great poet's style. They are, however, redeemed by many beauties. When his sentiment is great (and no poet more abounds in lofty sentiments) the energy of his diction is always equal to it. His language is remarkably precise. It may be observed by the readers of Æschylus, that in many of his finest passages, he admits a literal translation more easily than most other ancient poets. Every word has a distinct and forcible meaning.

We shall conclude with the character of this writer given by Quintilian. "Tragœdias primum in lucem protulit Æschylus, sublimis et gravis, et grandiloquus, sæpe ad vitium, sed rudis in plerisque, et incompositus, propter quod correctas ejus fabulas in certamen deferre posterioribus poetis Athenienses permisere, suntque eo modo multi coronati."

D.

ACCOUNTS OF, AND EXTRACTS FROM, RARE AND CURIOUS BOOKS.

AN ACCOUNT OF AN ANCIENT HEBREW MANUSCRIPT, IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY AT OXFORD.

Of the Hebrew Manuscripts of the Old Testament (I have already described the three most ancient Greek, of the New) the oldest and most valuable in this country is in the Bodleian Library. It is a finely-written folio volume on vellum, one of the many manuscripts given by Archbishop Laud to the University of Oxford. It is unaccompanied with the Masora; has no embellishment in the front of the volume, nor illuminations at the beginning either of the chapters or books. Like other Hebrew MSS., it does not admit abbreviations; in which respect it differs from MSS. in many other languages: and its letters are of the same form as those in our modern printed Hebrew Bibles.

The name of Jehovah is written usually at full length, and, what ought to be remarked, seldom retouched or repaired. This is mentioned as remarkable; because, in this manuscript, where the letters were decaying through age, they have been often restored. But this GREAT and GLORIOUS, this INEFFABLE NAME, THIS SON OF FOUR LETTERS,* as the name is called by the Rabbins, is frequently left as it

* Sheem Been Arebbah Ohijoth. Vid. Buxtorfi Lexicon Hebraicum et Chaldaicum, p. 156.

it was written by the first hand, though its prefixes or prepositions are often written over with fresh ink.*

Many, perhaps I might say, most, of the oldest printed Hebrew Bibles, have the accompaniment of vowel-points;† but this MS. seems to have been written without such modern inventions:—for, though they are seen here now, they are clearly of a different colour from the letters:—it comprehends the Pentateuch, though it is defective by a few pages at the beginning of Genesis: in other respects it is legible and well preserved, and is generally understood to have been written, as many of the Hebrew MSS. were, in Spain.

Though this MS. has been here spoken of as a single volume, yet it properly is but the former part of a MS., the latter part of which contains the Prophets and‡ Hagiographa: and the exceptions to the observation, that the initial letters are not larger than the rest, and that there are no Masora on the margins of the pages, are in cases where alterations, in these respects, have been made by a more modern hand.§

With respect to the Masora, or Masoreth, just alluded to, it may be proper to observe, that this was a systematic rule for interpreting and writing, dividing, and numbering the books of the Old Testament, critical, theological, and explanatory. It was a tradition (I take the words of Van der Hooght,‖ himself a believer in the authority of the Masorethites) from one hand to another, and a science concerning secret things, which one delivers, viva voce, for the information of another; and, in particular, it is the doctrine of the ancient wise men relative to the sacred text, that its integrity, even in the smallest matters, may be preserved genuine. Van der Hooght, after the Rabbins, calls it the *Hedge of the Law* (Sirog Lethoroh) raised for this end, that no perversion or irruption might be attempted on the divine word. It related to the division of the books, and of the sections, and of verses; to the regulation of words, and letters, and accents; and he traces it up to the *Men of the Great Synagogue*, in which, according

* See Dr. Kennicott's State of the present Hebrew of the Old Testament, p. 354.

† The Hagiographa printed at Naples, in 1487, is pointed, and is in the Library belonging to Eton College: and the Pentateuch, printed at Lisbon in 1491, in our King's Library, is also pointed; so, I believe, is the first edition of the whole Bible, printed at Soncino, in 1488: what the Pentateuch, printed in 1482, and said to be preserved in Verona, or a printed edition of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel, printed in 1484, and seen in the Royal Library at Paris by Dr. Kennicott, may be, I know not. The first printed edition of the *whole Bible* is, I believe, pointed, as are those of Athias and Van der Hooght. But the Soncino edition of the Prophets, of 1486, is said to be unpointed (as are some others) though, according to Dr. Kennicott, it is not known where it is preserved. Some of the earliest printed books of the Old Testament are to be found only in Royal, or University Libraries, and with great good fortune, even there, some of them apparently resembling the words called απαξ λεγομενα of the Greeks, *words that occur only in one place.*

‡ Kennicotti Generalis Dissertio in Vetus Testamentum.

§ Kennicott ut sup.

‖ Van der Hooght Prefat. in Biblia Hebraica.

cording to him, Ezra the Priest presided, and at which, according to Maimonides, the three last of the Prophets were present and took part.

These opinions, however, are considered as mere fancies and extravagancies. Bishop Walton says, the Masoretic points and accents were introduced about the year of Christ 500;* and the great antiquity of the Masora, as maintained by Ben Chaim, is treated by Kennicott, in his General Dissertation, as a dream:† but into these matters, the high authority of the Masorethites, and the orthodoxy of Van der Hooght's opinions, this is not the place to inquire. It is sufficient for our purpose to observe, that as the pages of the later Hebrew MSS. are, generally, more or less, crowded with the Masora,‡ so is it considered as a criterion of the more ancient to be more sparing of them.

It is a criterion, also, of the most ancient manuscripts in Hebrew, that the name Jehovah is more frequently written uniformly and at full length. Every one knows in what veneration this name was always held by the Jews, and that it was treated, at length, in a manner that was trifling, and superstitious. It was an ancient superstition among them, not to pronounce it, and, at length, not even to commit it to writing; using, in its place, Adonai, or Æloheim, sometimes a single Jodh, sometimes two or three Jodhs, and sometimes a Jodh with a stroke or a Vau; the name itself was pronounced only once in the year, and it was at last made *death to express it on ordinary occasions.*§

It may be here, once for all, cursorily noticed, that in accounts of ancient MSS., in whatever language they are written, the peculiar marks, and minute differences, under which they are described, are not superfluous and trifling, but may be important, and even necessary; not for the sake merely of assisting people to know where they are preserved, but for the purpose of inquiring into their age, of ascertaining their character and worth, of understanding the value of their readings, and their relative state with respect to other manuscripts. So that if concerning the most ancient MSS. it may be said with the Rabbins, *every leaf of gold is gold*, in attentions, which to some

* Waltoni Prolegomena in SS. Bibl. Polyglot, p. 31.

† Quod quidem qui putat accidere potuisse, non minus absurde aget, quam si fidem habeat alii Rabbinico somnio, scilicet, totam Masoram, quæ per omnes libros Veteris Testamenti dispersa est, traditam fuisse Mosi in Sinai.

‡ The Masora, both great and small, was printed at the beginning of the 16th century, by Bamberg, at Venice.

§ *In Codice Abhædah Sarah, cap.* i. *fol.* 18. *Editionis Venetæ.* Abduxerunt R. Chaninam, filium Teradjon, dicentes ipsi: Qua ratione sic egisti in Lege? Respondit ipsis: Sicut præcepit mihi Jehovah, Deus meus, egi. Quo audito, protinus ipsum ad combustionem damnarunt, uxorem ejus ad necem, filiam ad lupanar: Ipsum ad combustionem; proterea quod protulerat Nomen Tetragrammaton per literas suas, ex vi decreti per Abba Schaul lati: 'Quicunque protulerit Nomen Tetragrammaton per literas suas non habebit partem in futuro seculo.' Buxtorfi Lexicon Hebraicum et Chaldaicum.

some may appear trifling, it may be said, *Small matters have their most important place.*

——— χαρις σμικροισιν οφηδει.

In the describing of the age of this particular manuscript, the first thing which must be owned, is, that notwithstanding the remote periods in which the different books of the Old Testament were committed to writing, yet the age of the most ancient Hebrew manuscripts of them is comparatively not very great. As to the first exemplars of these books, they, as the opinion of many is, were burnt at the destruction of the temple, or else perished during the Babylonish captivity:* and though they say, all the essentials were remembered and rewritten, and repaired by Esras, yet the Hebrew MS. mentioned as his, is allowed to be of comparatively a modern date.† There are some MSS. of classical authors, and Greek manuscripts, or versions, of different parts both of the Old and New Testament, that are older than any Hebrew manuscript: and for this ample reasons may be assigned. Few Hebrew MSS. of the Old Testament, according to Bishop Walton,‡ are above 5 or 600 years old: Buxtorf says, he saw some of 7 or 800; and Kennicott, who stretched his liberality to the utmost, thought there were no Hebrew MSS., perhaps, extant, that extend their antiquity to 1000 years.§ In his Dissertation on 1 Chron. i. 2. &c. he modestly gives his opinion, that the present MS. may be 800 years, and he repeats his opinion in his Dissertatio Generalis to the Bible. These authorities are mentioned as those of men whose studies lay immediately that way, and who could have no possible reason for assigning a less age to Hebrew MSS. than they, in their consciences, thought they could bear.

Now for the USE that has been made of this curious MS. The *common printed Hebrew* Bibles, and those from which our translations were made, were taken from the more modern MSS. At the Reformation the knowledge of Hebrew, in any way, was rare: and as to Hebrew MSS., there is no controverting what is said by Bishop Lowth,‖ that so late as his time, the knowledge of them was a new subject in literature. And, indeed, Hebrew MSS., wherever discovered, were little prized by Christians, a strong prejudice lying against them, as being corrupted by the Jews; a prejudice which Dr.

* Vid. Waltoni Prolegom. in Polyglotti.

† Kennicott.

‡ Ratio etiam probabilis reddi potest, cur non habeamus Codices Hebræos ita antiquos, ut Græcos quosdam veteris ac novi Testamenti; quia scilicet post Masoretharum Crit: et punctuationem ab omnibus receptam, Judæorum omnes Codices, his non conformes, ut profanos et illegitimos damnaverunt. Inde post pauca sæcula omnibus juxta Masoretharum exemplaria descripti, reliqui rejecti et aboliti. Waltoni Prolegom. in SS. Bib. Polygl.

§ The State of the Printed Hebrew Text, &c. p. 307. Elsewhere, however, he speaks of one Hebrew MS. as being more than a thousand years old.

‖ Bishop Lowth's Preliminary Dissertation on his new Translation of Isaiah.

Dr. Kennicott thought ill-founded, as did another Church-of-England Divine other charges, under which the Jews long laboured, and for which they were often plundered, and severely suffered, in England.*

Walton only mentions two Hebrew MSS. as being in Christian libraries in this country, when he wrote; that given by Dr. Caius to his own College in Cambridge, and that which Walton had himself, having previously belonged to Selden.† Dr. Gill, though more profoundly read in Rabbinical writings than any man of his age, seems to have paid no attention to Hebrew MSS.‡ Dr. Geddes had frequently consulted this favourite MS.: but Dr. Kennicott (this being, indeed, his own province) made the most liberal use of it, and carried off from this field a most plentiful crop of different readings. It will surprize some to hear (yet Dr. Kennicott, who asserts this, is an unexceptionable evidence) that the variations in this MS. (one of the oldest and best now known) amount to 14,000; some of which considerably affect the sense, and agree with the ancient versions.§ That the reader may form some opinion of the character of this MS. the following variations of its readings are submitted to him.

Gen. xxxi. 18. Four words are omitted, which are also omitted in the versions, and Chaldee paraphrase; viz. Mikneh kinjono asher rochash; *the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten;* which are supplied in our English translation from the Samaritan and present Hebrew text.

Gen. xxxi. 52. ten whole words are left out. In Gen. xxxiii. 18. three words are left out. In Gen. xxxiv. 24. seven words are left out. Gen. xxxvi. viii. our translation, after the printed Hebrew text, reads, And Esau dwelt in Mount Seir: Esau, he is Edom. This MS. leaving out the latter *Esau*, reads, And Esau dwelt in Mount Seir; that is, Edom. Exod. vii. 7. This MS., by mistake, makes Moses thirty-three years of age; our translation, eighty. Exod. xiii. 1. After, of Man and Beast, there is a repetition of those words: and in ver. xviii. of the same chap. Pharaoh is put for Ælo-

* What I allude to here may be seen in a valuable book, entitled, ANGLIA JUDAICA.

† Prolegom. in Bib. Polyg. Sect. 4.

‡ Dr. Gill, an eminent dissenting minister, in the Preface to his Exposition of the Old Testament, announced his intention of giving some account of his Rabbinical Guides to be prefixed to his Exposition of the Prophets, but has unaccountably omitted it. His account of the Targums, Misnah, and Talmuds, prefixed to his Exposition of the New Testament, though judicious, is less curious, as having been given by many other writers.

§ Kennicotti Dissertatio Generalis, p. 21. Codex hic manuscriptus, qui agmen ducit, continet Lectiones circiter 14000, a textu Hooghtiano diversas; etsi Pentateuchus mutilus sit, incipiens a Genes. 27, 31. The Dr. is here speaking of the two volumes. In his English Dissertation on the State of the Printed Hebrew Text, he is speaking only of the Pentateuch. I must just add, that the same learned person, speaking, in another work, of his having collated even the first *printed* Bible, of 1488, with Van der Hooght's edition, says, "that the words which varied, either in whole or in part, amount to TWELVE THOUSAND!" 9th Annual Account.

heim. It is not necessary to add more. Dr. Kennicott has given some examples of omissions of whole verses and sections in some MSS., taking Van der Hooght's text as the basis of his own; and the account of *David's mighty men* (1 Chron. xi.) has so many differences from the account in 2 Sam. v. that he has made it the subject of an elaborate dissertation.

Hence we learn, on what a slender thread of argument the most specious opinions often hang! The strict integrity, as it has been called, of the text of the New Testament, maintained by Dr. Whitby and others, has been incontrovertibly disproved by the authority of MSS. deemed the most ancient and best. The Hebrew verity, too, resolutely supported by Buxtorf, has, from similar sources, been no less satisfactorily confuted: and the opinion, that there were no variations from the text of the Old Testament in the quotations of the Talmud, was, after examination and conviction, ingenuously given up by Dr. Gill.* Kennicott's researches received the approbation of many Christian princes and of most of the Christian universities in Europe. It can be, therefore, now no longer reckoned heretical to suppose, that copied writings have been subject to error: and it is on all hands admitted, that the writings here alluded to are not originals, but mere copies. The province of criticism thus becomes considerably enlarged, and the cause of liberality, literature, and benevolence is considerably strengthened: for as inquiry is favourable to truth, so does truth lead to benevolence: and in the practice of benevolence consists the happiness of man.

G. DYER.

Cambridge, Sept. 1808.

* Sat mihi erit huc transferre verba reverendi doctique Johannis Gill; qui ad finem variarum Lectionum, quas in meum usum ex Talmude perhumaniter collegerat, ingenue errorem suum hoc modo confiteri non erubuit. "Jam retractandum erit, quod egomet ipse affirmavi, *nimirum, quod nullas, vel perpaucas, reperiri varietates, a textu vulgato, in Talmude hinc inde allegatis; et hasce nullius, saltem levis esse momenti:" quum constat, ex præcedenti collatione discrepantias esse tantum non* MILLE. Kennicotti Dissertatio Generalis, &c. p. 16.

P. S.—I have fulfilled, in this imperfect and short sketch, what I was pledged to by a former number, which was, to give an account of the most ancient Hebrew *manuscript* in this country. Every one must have seen, that the word *manuscripts* was an error of the press, and that I never could intend to go at large into so wide a field of inquiry now. All that I stood pledged to attempt, and all I have here attempted, is one humble specimen of this sort of criticism. However, as this paper, begun at Oxford, is finished at Cambridge (and therefore I date it from that place) I may probably, on some future occasion, send a similar lucubration on one or two ancient Hebrew MSS. in the latter university, if such things will not obtrude on more important matter.

MEMOIRS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTICE OF JEROME POMPEI.

Jerome Pompei was born at Verona in 1731. He was the son of Francis Pompei and Bianca Brenzoni, both belonging to the nobility of that city. Of his earliest pursuits in literature an extraordinary circumstance is recorded. He was so enthusiastically fond of the Greek language, as to have rendered himself able to think in it as if it had been his vernacular idiom.

In his subsequent studies he devoted himself exclusively to the Greek and Latin classics; and when he had done this, with the consciousness of having attained his object, he soon transferred his exclusive attention to the Italian writers of the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries. From the latter he collected all the best modes of elocution, and thus made a kind of common-place book, on which he was to form his style—a circumstance which could not fail to excite the applause of his friends; as it obviously evinced, that he was sensible of the necessity of resorting to the writers of the two best periods of the Italian language, in order to support the purity of that idiom which was then greatly deteriorated.

The rising talents of young Pompei were happily fostered by the state of his native place at that time, in respect to literature. The illustrious veteran, Marquis Maffei, was still alive; and next to him, in age as well as in merit, were Rambaldo, Torelli, and Pindemonte; and from the school of all three a galaxy of men of learning and taste had been formed at Verona, which was, and will, in all probability, remain unrivalled. In the society of all these his powers acquired all the developement of which they were capable.

The first excursions of Sig. Pompei as an author were taken in the fields of lyric poetry; and in this, likewise, he was highly favoured by some temporary circumstances. Ever since the brilliant days of Tasso and Guarini (they themselves, however, being not entirely free from defects of this kind) the Italian poetry had been in a languishing state; it had been justly accused of frequent antitheses, inflated diction, idle conceits, and gigantic thoughts. Towards the close of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries, some great champions, mostly in Tuscany, had waged war against the prevailing bad taste, and they had been crowned with success. The honour, however, of banishing the evil for ever, and obtaining a permanent triumph for genuine taste, was reserved to Frugoni. To this excellent and justly celebrated genius Italy was indebted for the introduction and exemplification of easy, regular, descriptive, and sentimental poetry, and, what was more beneficial, for raising blank verse to a degree of strength until then unknown.

It

It was with these advantages that, in 1764, in the 33d year of his age, Pompei published at Verona his *Canzoni Pastorali*, in two 8vo. volumes. He received from the public a more flattering sentence than perhaps he had ever expected; for, although he was not put in competition with Frugoni, or others of a similar stamp, in point of fire and enthusiasm, rapidity of thought, and luxury of imagination, he was placed above them in respect to sensibility, sweetness and elegance of expression. This judgment was so general and decided, that the Marquis Manara, the Parmesan minister, who had been immediately formed in the school of Frugoni, having at the same time published his truly excellent Eclogues, nearly in the same spirit and taste, thought himself honoured when those Eclogues were judged by the public to stand as rivals to the pastoral canzoni of Pompei.

These pieces were soon followed by a "Translation of some Idylls of Theocritus and Moschus into Italian verse," which raised the reputation of the author still higher, since it evinced the happy result of his former combined studies of the Greek and Latin writers with the Italian. He made it a point to translate not only the ideas, but, as far as propriety of diction and harmony of versification could admit, the very words of the original, selecting with diligence the Italian words which seemed to him most adequate to the purpose. He constantly exhibited that noble, tender, and elegant simplicity by which his original compositions were distinguished; and proved that a person who has formed his taste by the genuine standard, will display it in the same degree in all his productions.

The next efforts of Sig. Pompei in original poetry were in the dramatic walk. It is a well known fact, that the Italians, although abounding with poetical works of every kind, have been unsuccessful in tragedy. This deficiency was so notorious, that, about 1768, the Infant Don Ferdinand, Duke of Parma, thought it a service to the whole nation to erect in his small capital an academy, in which prizes were to be distributed every year for the best tragic compositions. We do not know how far this circumstance may have influenced Pompei to turn his attention towards that poetical department, nor whether he sent any of his tragedies to Parma, to stand in competition with others, before the deputies of the academy. We only find that, in 1768 and 1770, he published his two elegant tragedies, *Hypermestra* and *Callirhoe*, which both met with great success, and very often, in the several cities of the Venetian state, were selected for performance in the private theatres, and were acted by individuals of both sexes of the highest nobility.

Sig. Pompei next gave a specimen of his talents as a prose writer; and this was the work which in our opinion, most effectually secured him a durable reputation. In 1774, after five years labour, he published his "Translation of the Lives of illustrious Men, by Plutarch," in four 4to. volumes. If there are still persons who think that translating is an easy task, let them consider that in Italy (not to speak of other countries) in more than three centuries of literature, only two capital

capital translators had been found; one in prose, towards the close of the sixteenth century, another in verse, towards the beginning of the eighteenth: let them moreover consider, that even among the numberless translations which appeared in the classical age of Leo X. not one could stand the test of severe criticism! The Lives of Plutarch had, in fact, been translated first by Giacomelli, of Rieti, then by Domenichi, and lastly by Sansovino; and all these several translations, although not destitute of merit, had been respectively found either discordant with the original, or inaccurate in the language, or devoid of elocution. To give a translation free from all these defects, and full of energy, elegance, and grace, was a task reserved to Pompei. The performance was received with great applause, and it rapidly went through several editions. What is remarkable, it commanded the admiration even of the Abbé Cesarotti, until then considered as the best translator of the age in Italy; and, in fact, he is the only contemporary writer who can come into competition with Pompei in the art of translating. Posterity will, perhaps, decide which of the two must possess the first rank. In all probability, however, it will be thought that Pompei, although, perhaps, inferior to the other in energy, is his superior in accuracy and elegance.

In the subsequent part of his life our author was more intent on translations than on original works; and this circumstance, in all probability, proved beneficial to Italian literature, as his talents were decidedly best fitted for the former exercise. In the order of time, however, we must mention his "Nuove Canzoni Pastorali," in two 8vo. volumes, published in 1778, and dedicated to the princess Mary Beatrix, of Este, wife to the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, a princess of a truly noble and cultivated mind, who seemed to have inherited from her illustrious ancestors that love of learning and learned men for which they are consigned to immortality. In the order of time, also, we must next mention his "Translation of the Story of Hero and Leander, by Musaeus;" of the "Hymn to Jupiter, by Cleanthes;" of the "Hymn of Callimachus on the Bath of Pallas;" and of "A Hundred Greek Epigrams," published in 1781. The author dedicated this work to the celebrated Brunk, as a mark of polite attention for the noble edition of the Greek text of those epigrams, as well as of the Hymn of Callimachus, which he had published at Strasburg in 1776. In the same order, in fine, we mention his "Translation of the Epistles of Ovid," published in 1781, with a dedication to the Count of Wilsek, Austrian plenipotentiary in Lombardy, pupil, successor, and rival of the illustrious Count of Firmian, in the patronage of literature. In respect to this last performance, we might in a great measure repeat what we have advanced in respect to the translation of Plutarch—that he eclipsed all his predecessors. The Epistles of Ovid had been successively translated into Italian verse by Remigio Fiorentino, by Cammilli, by Buffi, and by others—the translation of Pompei only is excellent and masterly; it displays accuracy, perspicuity, and elegance. We might omit noticing his last

last work, "Original and Translated Poetry," published at Verona in 1781, for it comes under the same general description with all the others, and, in our opinion, does not add to his fame. It may, indeed, be doubted, whether his fame would have been greater if his writings had been more voluminous. What we know of him is sufficient to classify him according to his merit.

It is pleasing to record, that Sig. Pompei stood as high in morals and manners as in literature. He served his native city, as well in a civil as in a literary capacity. He was Secretary to the Tribunal of Public Safety, and to the Academy of Painting; he was also a member of the Academy of the *Aletofili* and of that of the *Filarmonici;* and, in all these stations, he constantly evinced the highest sense of honour and public spirit. He was rather defective in comeliness of person; but for this he made ample amends by his attractive manners. He was welcome to every society, and constantly considered as the final judge of any question relative to taste and elegance. His fame was not confined within the boundaries of Italy; for every traveller of talent or distinction, happening to pass through Verona, made it a point to pay him a visit. In 1779 he had been invited, by his Royal Highness the Infant Duke, to Parma, as Professor of Eloquence, in that university: in 1785, he received from the Emperor Joseph II. the still more flattering invitation to the university of Pavia, with the liberty of choosing the chair which he should prefer. Attached, however, as he was, to his native city and to his old friends, and jealous of his independence, he declined all such honours.

Jerome Pompei died in 1790, aged 59 years. His memory received great honours from all the literary societies, as well as from the municipal government of Verona. By order of the latter, his bust was erected in one of the public squares of the city—a lower degree of the honour formerly paid to Maffei. A year after his death, all his original works were republished at Verona, in six 8vo. volumes. He left, also, several manuscripts, which, some time or other, will, in all probability, be published. From some periodical works of the time, we learn that his memory was celebrated in an eulogy by Father Fontana, and soon after in another eulogy, by his ancient friend the Cavaliere Ippolito Pindemonte. By the same papers we are informed, that his Life, in a more methodical form, was inserted in the 15th volume of the excellent work of Fabroni, "Vitæ Italorum Doctrina Excellentium."

F. D.

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL POETRY.

A FATHER's SICK BED.

HOW solemn is the sick man's room
To friends or kindred watching near!
How sad to pore upon the gloom
In silent heaviness and fear!

To hold the feeble hand in thine—
The start of every pulse to share—
With timid haste each wish divine
Yet feel the hopelessness of care!

To turn aside the streaming eye,
Lest those dim orbs perceive the tear!
To bear the weight of every sigh,
Lest it should wound that gentle ear!

In the drear stillness of the night
To lose the faint, faint sound of breath!
To listen in subdued affright—
To deprecate the thought of death!

And when a movement chas'd that fear,
And gave thy heart-blood leave to flow,
In thrilling awe a prayer to hear,
Through the clos'd curtain, murmur'd low?

The prayer of him, whose holy tongue
Had never yet exceeded truth;
Upon whose precious life has hung
The joy and wishes of thy youth:

Who cheerful, dauntless, frank and mild,
Was for his very goodness fear'd;
Pitied as a defenceless child,
And like a blessed saint rever'd!

Though friends are dear, yet none can feel
The kindness such a father knew,
Who still was serv'd with tender zeal,
But not so much as still was due.

Did not our tyrant foe maintain
An equal right to lay thee low;
No heart could e'er the loss sustain,
No reason could survive the blow!

I know

I know not even—for that Power,
Who loves to chasten and to spare,
Sav'd me the anguish of an hour,
Which thought recoil'd from in despair!

M. B.

INVOCATION TO FANCY.

DAUGHTER of Memory! nurse of Hope and Fear!
Where is thy haunt? What babbling stream beside,
(While airy warblings fluctuate on thine ear,
At shadowy moonlight, or still eventide)

'Mid fractured cliffs, in wood-embosomed dell,
Doth *Fancy* rove the visionary scene?
Or weave wild fictions in her secret cell,
While fairy groups dance lightly round their queen?

In such a scene, methinks, at shut of day,
I've met thee, Fancy, glimmering glens among;
What time I muttered many a boyish lay,
Lingering and listening as I mused along:

What time o'er all the yellow moonbeam slept,
And willowy sighs diffused a soothing sound,
('Twas where in solitude the willows wept)
And 'all was silent, listening gloom around!'

In sooth, thou art a coy, retiring maid,
And seldom deign'st with mortal wight to dwell,
Save when thy darling child, as erst he played
By native Avon, lured thee from thy cell.

Oh would'st thou take me to thy magic bower!
There might I frequent meet thy fond caress!
Forget low-thoughted life, with thee to soar,
Lapt in Elysium of ideal bliss!

VIRIDIS.

FAREWELL TO FANCY.

AWAY with Fancy, and th' unhallowed strain
Of wonders wild, and witcheries of night;
Or fabled chief, and tower of Troy profane,
Or fairy land, and dance of moonshine sprite!

I woo the flattering dreams no more. Be mine
The secret cell, remote from clamorous fray,
Where I may muse, on river's bank recline,
With book in hand, and reverend gown of grey.

Soft

Soft shall the vision be; but not of earth,
Full well I ween, all bliss is Fancy there;
But all of heaven shall be th' ideal birth,
Celestial shapes, and spirits passing fair.

Sometimes a tear on hopeless grief I'll lose,
And mourn o'er woes my heart in vain would heal;
Or meditate, perchance, the moral muse,
Show truth how fair, and teach the breast to feel.

Or, wandering forth sometimes at eventide,
Wrapt, as was Isaac erst, in sacred theme,
I'll cull me simples from the mountain's side,
Or what the hedge supplies, or what the stream.

Or visit, now and then, the humble cot,
To cheer the dying, or prolong his span;
The poor shall know my hospitable grot,
Strew flowers around, and bless the holy man.

FLOSCULUS.

Aug. 24, 1808.

ODE TO TEMPERANCE.

BLEST is the man, supremely blest,
Who curbs the tumults of his breast,
And regulates with stern controul
The transports of a restless soul—
Him shall the sweet affections guide
With buoyant prow o'er ocean's tide,
Aloof from sorrow's shelving shore,
Or where affliction's billows roar;
The hurricanes of rage shall fail
Ere they approach his swelling sail
And gentle peace shall beam from far.
His still propitious polar star.

Despite the sword of wanton power,
That Fate suspends o'er ev'ry hour—
Whether along the halls of strife
He battles with a bustling life,
Or, in seclusion's lowly shed,
With poverty reclines his head,
The band of charities shall wait
With grateful smile around his gate,
The pilgrim happiness shall stay
To pass with him the livelong day,
And piety, of sorrow shriven,
Embrace the denizen of heav'n.

Thine is it, Temperance, to impart
A rapture to the feeling heart,
That far transcends the faithless glow,
The sons of pleasure only know.
The torch of impotent desire
Soon yields its ineffectual fire;
Its ruddy beam, its beacon-light,
Soon sinks upon the tow'r of night:
But thy still lamp, serene and clear,
Illumes the journey of the year,
And lends our steps a friendly ray
To the dread confines of decay.

J. B. A.

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

It is our sincere wish to award to every one his due; and more especially to attribute to experimental philosophers the entire merit of their respective discoveries, the fame arising from which is too often their whole recompence. We therefore take the earliest opportunity of correcting a few mistakes to the prejudice of Professor Davy, into which we have inadvertently fallen in our last number, p. 257, where we have given an account of the discoveries of M. Pontin and Berzelius. It might be inferred from the paragraph alluded to, that Professor Davy's discoveries of the metallic nature of lime and barytes, magnesia and strontites, were subsequent to his knowledge of those by M. Pontin and Berzelius on the same subject. The fact, however, is, in the first place, that the Swedish chemists, already named, mention only that they have obtained amalgams of barytes and lime, but not of the two other alkaline earths; and, in the second place, that Professor Davy had, as early as the latter end of last November, obtained alloys of the metals of barytes and strontites, and in the February following had also decomposed lime and magnesia. It was not, however, till after he had received a communication on the subject from M. Berzelius, that he was enabled, by combining his own methods with those of the Swedish chemists, to obtain the metallic bases of the earths in a pure uncombined state. The manner in which Professor Davy had decomposed the alkaline earths before he was acquainted with M. Berzelius's method, was by electrifying mixtures of red precipitate, oxyd of silver, and oxyd of tin, with the earths slightly moistened: the amalgams or alloys obtained at the negative surface are compounds of the common metals and the metallic bases of the earths. The same philosopher has obtained signs of the decomposition of alumine and silex (and, within the last month, of zircon and glucine) by electrifying a mixture of these earths and potash: the metal of potash thus obtained appears to be combined with another metallic substance, since when decomposed by water it affords a white powder besides the potash.

A new Novel will shortly appear from the pen of Miss Owenson, the scene of which is, we understand, laid in Greece.

The Rev. Mr. Dibdin's edition of Sir Thomas More's Utopia, which has been unexpectedly delayed, will be published in the course of the ensuing month.

Proposals have been issued for publishing by subscription, in one volume, 4to., a History of the Horse, by the Author of "Rural Sports;" containing directions in breeding, rearing, training, &c. the Race-horse, the Hunter, the Hackney, the Carriage, and the Cart-horse, for the different purposes of the turf, the field, and the road; interspersed with anecdotes appertaining to each class: comprising also an account of the most approved methods of treating those

those disorders the Horse is by nature liable to, as well as those originating from too indulgent, or too careless management.

The Life of St. Neol, the eldest Brother of Alfred the Great, by the Rev. John Whitaker, Rector of Ruan Langhorne, Cornwall, is in the press. It will make a volume in octavo.

Mr. E. A. Kendal, of New York, has in the press Travels in Lower and Upper Canada. A very high degree of importance attaches itself to these Travels, as well for the recent and authentic information which they contain, concerning two provinces of so much value to the British empire, as for the novel and interesting views which they afford, of the countries north-west of the Canadas, their inhabitants and natural history. In Lower Canada, a prominent object of inquiry was the commerce in furs; and every detail of this commerce necessarily connects itself with the actual history of the North American nations, involving accounts of their numbers, habits, and condition. These subjects, so well calculated to fix the attention of philosophers and statesmen, Mr. Kendal has been enabled, by the aid of original documents, and much oral communication, to treat of, in a manner full of novelty, and peculiarly satisfactory. The arts, the poetry, and the mythology of these tribes of hunters, are each found to invite attention, and even to possess attractions not unworthy of the walks of polite letters. Besides other engravings, this work is to be accompanied by a splendid series of coloured plates, exhibiting the military costume of the Kinistinoes of the plains. In that part of the travels which relates to Upper Canada, the memory of Brandt, the Iroquois chief, is preserved, by a portrait, drawn from the life, and by some biographical memoirs. The agriculture, trade, resources, and political and moral state of Lower and Upper Canada, are illustrated by a multitude of important facts, and the work abounds with anecdote. The work is expected to form one large volume 4to. and will be published in England about the time of its appearance in America.

There is also in the press at New York, the Natural, Civil, and Political History of Chili, translated from the Italian of the Abbe Molina, with notes from the Spanish and French versions, and a copious Appendix, consisting of a translation into English heroic verse, of the most striking and interesting passages in the celebrated Spanish Epic Poem, "The Araucana," by Don Alonzo de Ercilla, 2 volumes octavo, illustrated by a map of the country. This work has obtained high reputation. The author, a native of Chili, and for a long time resident in that country, is eminently distinguished as a writer and a natural philosopher. That a work of such generally acknowledged merit as the History of Chili should not have been made familiar to the English reader, while the press has constantly teemed with so many others far its inferiors, is certainly not a little singular, at so literary a period as the present. Whether considered in relation to its natural productions, or its civil and military transactions, Chili affords an interesting subject for the historian. Blessed with a most salubrious and delightful climate, with a soil wonderfully fertile, and adapted to the productions of almost every country, rich in mines of gold and silver, in short, the favourite of nature, gifted with the united advantages of most other portions of the globe, it offers to the naturalist a wide field of curious research. To the moral philosopher it also furnishes a subject still more interesting, from the character of its aboriginal inhabitants, the brave and hardy Araucanians. Their gallant and successful resistance to the best disciplined troops of Spain, then in the meridian of her military glory; their firm support of their national independence, exhibit a picture novel, highly impressive, and strongly contrasted with that of the other American nations. This work derives an increased interest, as it discloses to our view a region which, besides the precious metals, furnishes many valuable articles of traffic, and will probably ere long be an object of great commercial importance. This work will also, we understand, be reprinted in this country.

We are desired to announce the advanced state of a work, in folio, to be published in October 1808, entitled, Anatomico-Chirurgical Views of the Nose, Mouth, Larynx, and Fauces, with appropriate explanations and references to the

the parts, by J. J. Watt, surgeon; designed by the author to illustrate the anatomy of those organs, as they appear in different sections of the head, and performed with the strictest attention to anatomical accuracy. The engravings will be four in number, containing six views of the parts, of their natural size, and accompanied with the same number of outline figures of reference; with an additional anatomical description of these organs. By Mr. W. Lawrence, Demonstrator of Anatomy, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Sir John Carr's Tour in Scotland is announced for publication in November.

Dr. Carey is preparing to publish, for the use of his private pupils and of schools, a Familiar English Grammar, intended as an easy introduction to the more difficult Grammars, and simplifying the business of Prosody and Versification.

The Author of the "Age of Frivolity" has in the press a small volume of Poems, consisting of Sonnets, Tales, and Characteristic Pieces.

THE STATE OF THE PRESS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

As an account of the present state of the Clarendon press, in the university of Oxford, was given in our last number, a similar account relative to our sister-university comes in due order in this.

The following books were published either in 1807 or 1808:—Euripidis Troades, corrected partly from MSS. and partly by conjectural criticism, by Mr. Burges, of Trinity College. A third volume of a System of Astronomy, by Mr. Vince, Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy. The fifth edition of an Analysis of the Greek Metres, by Dr. Seale. A Confutation of Atheism, from the Laws and Constitution of the Heavenly Bodies, by Professor Vince. A splendid volume of Travels in Magna Grecia, with engravings, by Mr. Wilkins: this relates principally to Architecture. A Translation into blank verse of Lycophron's Cassandra, by the late Lord Royston. A Treatise on an Error in Euclid, by Mr. Lax, of Trinity College. With a few Prize Essays and single Sermons.

There are several learned works, classical, etymological, and mathematical, now in the press, some in great forwardness: and it will afford many of our readers pleasure to hear, that of the latter number, the following will be published early in the winter:—A Descriptive Catalogue of the Oriental Library of the late Tippoo Sultan, of Mysore. To which will be added, an Appendix, containing Specimens of the most interesting works, by Major Stewart, Persian Professor at the East India College, Herts. The Choruses of Æschylus's Plays, intended to be explanatory of the Greek Metres, by Dr. Charles Burney; and an Etymological work, by the Rev. Walter Whiter, late Fellow of Clare-hall.

The university has purchased the following work of the son of Hoogeveen, and it is printed, though not yet published; viz. Henrici Hoogeveen Opus Posthumum, exhibens Dictionarium Analogicum, Linguæ Græcæ, cum Auctoris Vitâ ab ipso conscriptâ. To which is subjoined, Philippi Cattieri Gazophylacium Græcorum, seu Methodus Admirabilis ad insignem brevi comparandam Verborum Copiam cum Auctario Frid. Ludov. Abresch.—Hoogeveen is author of the well-known work, entitled, Doctrina Particularum Linguæ Græcæ.

It is also understood that Dr. Clarke, late Fellow of Jesus College, who has already favoured the public with an account of the Colossal Statue of Ceres, has in the press a Description of the other Marmora which he brought into this country, together with his Travels.

With respect to the plan of printing by stereotype plates, that was adopted by this university as early as 1805. Many beautiful editions of Bibles and Prayer-books have accordingly been published, both in English and Welsh, the plates having been cast in a foundry erected by the university for the express purpose.

The following account of a new Volcano in one of the Azores, has lately been given to the public by the American Consul at St. Antonio.

Fayal (Azores) June 25, 1808.

"A phenomenon has occurred here not unusual in former ages, but of which there has been no example of late years; it was well calculated to inspire terror, and has been attended with the destruction of lives and property. On Sunday, the 1st of May, at one *p. m.* walking in the balcony of my house at St. Anthonio, I heard noises like the report of heavy cannon at a distance, and concluded there was some sea engagement in the vicinity of the island. But soon after, casting my eyes towards the island of St. George, ten leagues distant, I perceived a dense column of smoke rising to an immense height; it was soon judged that a volcano had burst out about the centre of that island, and this was rendered certain when night came on, the fire exhibiting an awful appearance. Being desirous of viewing this wonderful exertion of nature, I embarked on the 3d of May, accompanied by the British Consul, and ten other gentlemen, for St. George; we ran over in five hours, and arrived at Vellas, the principal town, at eleven *a. m.* We found the poor inhabitants perfectly panic struck, and wholly given up to religious ceremonies and devotion. We learned that the fire of the first of May had broken out in a ditch, in the midst of fertile pastures, three leagues S. E. of Vellas, and had immediately formed a crater, in size about twenty-four acres. In two days it had thrown out cinders or small pumice stones, that a strong N. E. wind had propelled southerly; and which, independent of the mass accumulated round the crater, had covered the earth from one foot to four feet in depth, half a league in width, and three leagues in length; then passing the channel five leagues, had done some injury to the east point of Pico. The fire of this large crater had nearly subsided, but in the evening preceding our arrival, another small crater had opened, one league north of the large one, and only two leagues from Vellas. After taking some refreshment, we visited the second crater, the sulphureous smoke of which, driven southerly, rendered it impracticable to attempt approaching the large one. When we came within a mile of the crater, we found the earth rent in every direction, and, as we approached nearer, some of the chasms were six feet wide; by leaping over some of these chasms, and making windings to avoid the larger ones, we at length arrived within two hundred yards of the spot; and saw it, in the middle of a pasture, distinctly at intervals, when the thick smoke which swept the earth lighted up a little. The mouth of it was only about fifty yards in circumference; the fire seemed struggling for vent; the force with which a pale blue flame issued forth, resembled a powerful steam-engine, multiplied a hundred fold; the noise was deafening; the earth where we stood had a tremulous motion, the whole island seemed convulsed, horrid bellowings were occasionally heard from the bowels of the earth, and earthquakes were frequent. After remaining here about ten minutes we returned to town; the inhabitants had mostly quitted their houses, and remained in the open air, or under tents. We passed the night at Vellas, and the next morning went by water to Ursulina, a small sea-port town, two leagues south of Vellas, and viewed that part of the country covered with the cinders before-mentioned, and which has turned the most valuable vineyards in the island into a frightful desert. On the same day (the 4th of May) we returned to Fayal, and on the 5th and succeeding days, from twelve to fifteen small volcanos broke out in the fields we had traversed on the 3d, from the chasms before described, and threw out a quantity of lava, which travelled on slowly towards Vellas. The fire of those small craters subsided, and the lava ceased running about the 11th of May; on which day the large volcano, that had lain dormant for nine days, burst forth again like a roaring lion, with horrid belchings, distinctly heard at twelve leagues distance, throwing up prodigious large stones, and an immense quantity of lava, illuminating at night the whole island. This continued with tremendous force until the fifth of June, exhibiting the awful yet magnificent spectacle of a perfect river of fire (distinctly seen from Fayal!) running into the sea. On that day (the 5th) we experienced that its force began to fail, and, in a few days after, it ceased entirely.

ly. The distance of the crater from the sea is about four miles, and its elevation about 3,500 feet. The lava inundated and swept away the town of Ursulina, and country-houses and cottages adjacent, as well as the farm-houses, throughout its course. It, as usual, gave timely notice of its approach, and most of the inhabitants fled; some few, however, remained in the vicinity of it too long, endeavouring to save their furniture and effects, and were scalded by flashes of steam, which, without injuring their clothes, took off not only their skin but their flesh. About sixty persons were thus miserably scalded, some of whom died on the spot, or in a few days after. Numbers of cattle shared the same fate. The Judge and principal inhabitants left the island very early. The consternation and anxiety were for some days so great among the people, that even their domestic concerns were abandoned, and, amidst plenty, they were in danger of starving. Supplies of ready-baked bread were sent from hence to their relief, and large boats were sent to bring away the inhabitants, who had lost their dwellings. In short, the island, heretofore rich in cattle, corn, and wine, is nearly ruined, and a scene of greater desolation and distress has seldom been witnessed in any country."

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

AGRICULTURE.

Crosby's Farmer, Grazier, Steward, Bailiff, and Cattle-keeper's Annual Pocket-Book, for 1809: containing a Journal of every Day, a Calender of Business to be done, Hints for the Weather, a List of Taxes, Towns, Bankers, Laws, Rules, and Regulations, and many useful things for Country Gentlemen. 3s. 6d. bound.

A Treatise on the Culture of the Pine Apple. By W. Griffin. The 2d edition. 10s. 6d. boards.

BOTANY.

Fuci, or Coloured Figures and Descriptions, in English and Latin, of the Plants referred by Botanits to the Genus Fucus. By Dawson Turner, A.M. F.R.A. and L.S. Vol. I. royal 4to. 4l. 13s. boards.

The British Flora; or, a Systematic Arrangement of British Plants. The second edition, much improved. By John Hull, M.D. of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Physician to the Lying-in Hopital in Manchester, &c. Vol. I. post 8vo. 9s. boards.

BIOGRAPHY.

Memoirs of the Rev. Samuel Bourn, for many years one of the Pastors of the United Congregation of the New Meeting inBirmingham, and of the Meeting in Coseley. With an Appendix, consisting of various Papers and Letters, and Biographical Notices of some of his Contemporaries, and a Supplement, containing Specimens of his Historical and Catechetical Exercises. By Joshua Toulmin, D.D. 8vo. 7s. boards.

The Life of Abraham Newland, Esq. late Principal Cashier at the Bank of England, from authentic documents; to which is added, a History of that great National Establishment, with the Charters and Statutes passed relative to it, from the time of its incorporation. Royal 12mo. 5s. boards.

CLASSICS.

Herodotus Halicarnassensis Historia. Par Frederici Volg. Reitz. 2 vols. 8vo. 18s. boards; large paper, 1l. 16s. boards.

EDUCATION.

Circle of the Arts and Sciences, for the use of Schools and young Persons, with Engravings. By Wm. Mavor, LL.D. 12mo. 5s. sheep.

Excerpta ex Variis Romanis Poetis, qui in Scholis rariùs leguntur, notulis illustrata, quas collegit in studiosæ juventutis usum Johannes Rogers Pitman, A.B. 12mo. 6s. bound.

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Latin Prosody made easy. By J. Carey, LL.D. Private Teacher of the Classics, &c. A new edit. 8vo. 10s. 6d. boards.

Institutes of Latin Grammar. By J. Grant, A. M. 8vo. 10s. 6d. boards.

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LAW.

A Practical Treatise of the Law of Vendors and Purchasers of Estates. By Edward Burtinshaw Sugden, of Lincoln's-Inn, Barrister at Law. New edit. royal 8vo. 19s. 6d. boards.

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A Treatise on the Operation of Lithotomy: in which are demonstrated the Dangers of the present method of operating with the Gorget, and the superiority of the more simple operation with the Knife and Staff. The manner of performing the Incisions is explained in short rules, and represented by drawings the size of the living figures. By Robert Allen, Surgeon. Folio, 1l. 11s. 6d.

A Letter to Mr. Keate, Surgeon General to the Army. By Robert Jackson, M. D. 8vo. 4s.

J. Callow's Catalogue, for 1809, of a Modern Collection of Books in Anatomy, Medicine, Surgery, Chemistry, Botany, &c. To which is added, an Appendix, containing a choice Collection of Second-hand Books, in various Languages, among which are many rare articles recently purchased. Price 1s.

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The Complete Works of the late Rev. John Newton, Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, London. 6 vols. 8vo. 2l. 14s. boards.

A Discourse on the Being, or Existence of God, as discoverable by natural, unprejudiced Reason; intended as a popular Antidote against the pernicious Influence of modern Infidelity. By the Rev. Christopher Hodgson, LL.B. Rector of Marholm, Northamptonshire, and formerly of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge. 8vo. 1s. 6d.

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METEOROLOGICAL

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

(Continued from page 255.)

REMARKS.

24. Some appearances of thunder clouds in the evening.

25. At 2 *p. m.* a thunder storm, continuing till 3. The lightning was not very vivid, but the reports followed almost instantly. After a heavy rain the wind shifted to the W.

27. A very heavy rain the whole night, from 8 *p. m.*

28. Very stormy, with almost incessant rain.

30. A very fine day.

31. A storm from 4 till 9 *p. m.*: the rain not very heavy; thunder distant. Lightning, with thunder in the evening.

7. A very large lunar halo about 10 *p. m.*

8. A heavy storm of wind and rain from 4 to 7 *p. m.*

9. Thunder and lightning, with much rain in the afternoon.

20. A *stratus* at night.

RESULTS.

Prevailing Winds, Westerly.

Mean height of Barometer -	29.76 In.
Thermometer	65.30°
Evaporation - - - - - -	3.53 In.
Rain, &c. - - - - - - -	5.10 In.

The amount of rain is greater by 1.88 In. than that found in the rain gauge at Plaistow. It was obtained in my absence from home by a temporary gauge fixed near the river Lea, at the Laboratory, and *less elevated* by about 30 feet than the gauge at Plaistow. The observations of this moon and one-third of the next were furnished by my friend John Gibson.

L. H.

Plaistow, 23d of 8th mo. 1808.

RESULTS FOR JULY, AT MANCHESTER.

Mean Barom. Pressure 29.73^{4}—Highest 30.00 —Lowest 29.45 —Range 55.
Mean Temperature 66°60^{4}—Highest 84°—Lowest 55°—Range 29°
Spaces described by the Barometer in inches, 3.20.—Number of Changes, 21.
Rain, &c. this Month, 2.440 of an In.—Wet Days, 13.—Total Rain this Year, 11.985.

WIND.

N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
4	9	0	23	1	15	15	19

Total Number of Observations, 85.—Number of Stormy Days, 1.

My Correspondent at Blakeley makes the rain for this month 3.072 inches.

THOS. HANSON.

Lying-in Hospital, Aug 3, 1808.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

		Wind.	Pressure. max.	Pressure. min.	Temp. max.	Temp. min.	Evap.	Rain, &c
	Aug. 21	NW	30,15	30.11	73°	51°	7	
	22	NE	30.14	30.11	76	53	7	
	23	NE	30.11	30.07	72	53	.12	1
	24	NE	30.09	30.07	68	54	.11	
	25	NE	30.07	29.83	72	50	.10	
a.	26	SW	29.83	29.55	74	49	.18	.14
b.	27	NW	29.66	29.55	75	55	.10	
	28	W	29.85	29.66	66	47	.14	
	29	S	29.85	29.72	68	43	.14	
	30	SE	29.72	29.58	73	59	.13	6
c.	31	SW	29.58	29.50	70	58	.14	.11
	Sept. 1	SW	29.71	29.54	68	54	.18	.10
	2	SW	29.79	29.71	67	55	.13	.18
	3	W	29.79	29.76	67	56	.10	3
	4	W	29.78	29.76	66	48	9	
c.	5	S	29.76	29.62	67	54	.11	6
	6	SW	29.72	29.66	68	52	.11	5
c.	7	SW	29.66	29.57	67	57	.15	2
	8	SW	29.57	29.30	65	50	.19	4
	9	S	29.30	29.28	64	54	7	.47
e.	10	SE	29.40	29.30	63	52	5	.12
	11	W	29.58	29.40	62	52	3	.48
f.	12	SE	29.62	29.58	62	52	2	.41
	13	Var.	29.71	29.62	67	53	6	.20
g.	14	N	29.97	29.71	68	54	5	
g.	15	NE	30.23	29.97	71	54	.17	
g.	16	NE	30.23	30.21	67	44	.25	
g.	17	E	30.21	29.96	66	54	.16	
	18	Var.			68	57	.16	.10
g.	19	SW			67	50	.10	
			29.82	29.70	68.23	52.46	T. 3.48	2.58
			M. 29,76		60.34			

N. B. The Notations comprised in each line relate to a period of 24 hours, reckoned *from* 9 a. m. on the day of the date. A dash denotes that the period so marked is to form a part of that allotted to the next observation.

REMARKS.

a. Misty morning.
b. A heavy shower between 7 and 8 *a. m.*
c. Much wind by night.
d. Squalls with rain.
e. Very wet *a. m.*; fair *p. m.* but distant thunder about 5.
f. Lightning in the W. after 10 *p. m.*
g. Fair days, with misty mornings, and abundance of dew.

RESULTS.

Winds variable.

Mean height of Barometer -	29.76 In.
Thermometer	60.34
Evaporation - - - - -	3.48 In.
Rain - - - - - - - -	2.58 In.

Character of the period wet and changeable. It is observable that the mean height of the Barometer in this and the last moon exactly coincide, as do the Mean Temperature and Evaporation nearly.

L. H.

Plaistow, 23d 9 mo. 1808.

RESULTS FOR AUGUST.

Mean Pressure Barom. 29.64'—Highest 30.04—Lowest 29.20.—Range 00.84.
Mean Temperature - 63.°41—Highest 74°. —Lowest 50°—Range 24°.
Spaces described by the Barometer in inches, 4.30. Number of Changes 12.
Rain, &c. this Month, 2.185 inches.—Number of Wet Days, 13.—Total Rain this Year, 14,170 inches.

My Correspondent at Blakeley makes the quantity of Rain for this Month 2.050 inches.

WIND.

N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
0	0	0	11	7	35	18	18

Total Number of Observations, 89.—Number of Stormy Days, 5.

THOS. HANSON.

Manchester Lying-in Hospital, Sept. 3, 1808.

INTELLIGENCE

RELATIVE TO ARTS MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. Phelps, of Cuper's-bridge, Lambeth, for Improvements in the Manufacture of Soap. Dated Jan. 1808.

The object of this patent is to secure the use of steam in heating the materials for making the soap. These materials are placed in a vessel of wood, or of any other fit substance, at a distance from the fire-place, over which a closed boiler is fixed for producing the steam, which is conveyed by a pipe into the materials. Mr. Phelps mentions, that he introduces the steam at such temperature above boiling water as may be required, by subjecting it to pressure or reaction; and that in general the reaction caused by introducing the steam at about four feet depth below the surface of the materials will be sufficient. The distance from the bottom of the vessel to the point of introduction of the steam should not exceed one foot. The rising of the materials through the steam pipe is prevented by cocks or valves. The size of the steam-pipe Mr. Phelps states not to be material; and that he found one of an inch diameter very sufficient in a work of considerable magnitude. The strength of the lees being in some degree diminished by the deposition of water from the steam till they attain the heat of 212°, an allowance for this circumstance is to be made by using an additional quantity of lees, or the first portion of such greater strength as may be needful or advantageous.

The boilers for producing the steam are directed to be fitted up and managed in the same manner as those used for steam engines.

The method of making soap by steam was contrived by Count Rumford, almost a year before the date of this patent, and accounts of it were published in most of the periodical works about the end of Autumn last year. Our description of it is given in Vol. ii. p. 67.

This seems to be a very advantageous way of heating the materials. Count Rumford found that soap was made by it in six hours, which in the usual method requires no less than sixty hours: all danger of burning the materials, or destroying the bottom of the boiler, is also prevented by it. Some of the directions given by Mr. Phelps for the management of the steam pipes are judicious, but we cannot conceive by what right he can deprive the public of the free use of the process, which is so well known to be Count Rumford's invention, and which in reality was a gift of his to the public. In point of law we do not pretend to give an opinion; but, in justice, it is evident that the attempts of any individual to appropriate to his sole use an invention that was previously most notoriously public property, cannot be too much reprobated.

Patent of Mr. Edward Moore Noble, of Birmingham, for a new method of making Carbonate of Lead, commonly called White Lead. Dated Jan. 1808.

Mr. Noble directs, that for making white lead by his process, lead in thin plates, or small pieces, shall be placed in a vessel that has a small communication with the atmosphere; to this so much acetous acid or vinegar, or solution of acetite of lead, or both, is to be added, that the lead may not be wholly but only partially immersed in the liquor.

Then a mixture of a carbonic acid gas and oxigen gas, or of carbonic acid gas and atmospheric air, or a mixture of all three, is to be introduced into the liquor, which is to be frequently agitated, that it may pass over and act on the lead, and that the carbonate of lead may be removed from the surface of the metal

metal as fast as it is formed, and a fresh surface be exposed. Litharge, or oxid of lead containing the proper proportion of oxigen, that will enable it to unite with acetous acid, may be used in the process instead of metallic lead, taking care that the oxid of lead may be at least in sufficient quantity to saturate the acid. Whichever of the two methods is used, a white substance is produced, which is carbonate of lead, commonly called white lead; but the degree of its whiteness will depend on the quality and purity of the materials, and on the operation being more or less perfectly performed. When the carbonate of lead is formed, it is separated from the mixture, and dried, if it is intended to be mixed with oil. It is sometimes found to be expedient to wash the carbonate of lead previously to its being dried.

It does not appear to be as yet perfectly decided that *white lead* is nothing but the carbonate of lead, as Mr. Noble asserts; some portion of acetous acid is very likely to be combined with it. Mr. Noble's process seems, however, to possess much merit, and to be very sufficient for making the white lead of commerce.

Account of the Third Voyage to the West Indies of the Ship Economy, built according to Mr. J. W. Boswell's patent method, from a communication by Mr. Boswell.

The great importance of naval concerns to this kingdom renders all improvements in ships of the greatest consequence, for which reason this ship is particularly worthy of attention.

The plan on which the Economy is built is designed to admit of the use of timber for the ribs of about a fourth of the usual size, which are so strengthened by an internal framing, formed by six horizontal timbers running from stem to stern at each side of the kelson, and five transverse rider frames, that the ship has been allowed to be stronger altogether than any in the river, even by the Inspectors appointed by the Navy Board. A more particular description of the construction of this ship is contained in the next article. A short account of her excellent performance on her second voyage was given in our second volume, page 295. In her third voyage she has also succeeded equally well, as appears from the following letter of her commander, Captain Ross, to Mr. Boswell.

Copy of a Letter from Capt. Ross to Mr. Boswell.

Dear Sir, Aug. 8, 1808.

I feel much pleasure in stating to you some particulars of my second voyage to Demerara, in the ship Economy, built according to your patent. We sailed from Portsmouth on the 18th of December last, under convoy of the Astrea frigate, and on the 25th the wind shifted to the S. W. and continued westerly until the 6th of January; during which time we experienced several heavy gales, which dispersed the fleet, and several ships bore away for the ports in the Channel, with damage. But although the Economy was deeply laden, having nearly a full cargo, with a large proportion of bricks and ballast, she made astonishing good weather, and shipped only one sea, which broke the spanker boom in three pieces as it lay lashed to the gangway stantions, which may give some idea of the force of the sea at that time. After the gale abated, we saw only about forty sail with the frigate, with which we proceeded, and delivered our cargo at Demerara without the least appearance of damage; and I never have been in any ship that I had so good an opinion of in point of strength. On looking over the log-book of the homeward passage, I see that almost every day we either shortened sail or hove to for the ships astern. Our cargo home was chiefly coffee in bags; for which she is remarkably well adapted, and which was delivered at No. 5, in the West India Dock, in the best order possible. She has just been in dock to get a clean bottom, and was found to be in such good order, that she was fit for any voyage without the least repair, not even wanting caulking. The sheathing is perfectly free from the

the worms, which may be owing to her having been paid with *coal tar* in the following manner: The seams of the bottom were carefully caulked and paid with common pitch, and then the bottom was paid with *coal tar*. The sheathing-paper was very thick, and was dipped in *coal tar*, and the sheathing was put on without hair; the seams of the sheathing were caulked and paid with common pitch; and then a good coat of coal tar was put on over all.

I am, dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROSS.

The great injury caused by the worms in general makes the probable efficacy of the *coal tar* above mentioned in preventing their ravages a circumstance of considerable consequence. On her first voyage the ship had her sheathing painted with white lead, which is esteemed to resist the worms well, nevertheless the sheathing was much cut by them, which was partly owing to her long detention in the West Indies by the French fleet. On her second voyage, she had what is called a brimstone bottom, when her sheathing was again much cut. The superior effect of the coal tar is therefore very evident over these other substances used in defending the sheathing from the worms. More than a century ago the famous Glauber mentioned the great efficacy of oil drawn from sea-coal in destroying insects in general.

The use of small timber in framing ships in Mr. Boswell's patent method, would occasion a great saving in expence for ships above 500 tons burthen, as timber of about half the price of that now in use could be substituted with superior strength for most of their construction. It would also, if used in the navy, be a great national benefit, as it would effectually prevent the scarcity of timber fit for building large ships under which this country has laboured for many years, as timber of forty or fifty years growth would in this method have equal effect as that of an hundred years growth in the common mode of building.

Yet though this truth was acknowledged publicly, by the Inspectors sent to examine the Economy by the Navy Board, to be so evident as to require no proof, though the strength of the ship was also declared by them superior to that of any in the river, yet such is the aversion of the Admiralty and Navy Boards to all improvements likely to be attended with the least trouble to themselves individually, that so far from giving any encouragement to the plan, they even refuse to let their opinions, or the report of the Navy Board on the subject, be made public, conscious that they have no ground to state for refusing a trial of the method, which would not expose either their ignorance or their injustice in opposing what they know to be advantageous to the public from selfish motives. This is no conjectural explication of motives. It is what was openly avowed by one of the members of the Navy Board to Mr. Boswell in the following words: "Sir, if we should build a ship on your plan, and twenty years afterwards any accident should happen to it that might happen to any other ship whatsoever, it would be attributed to the plan, and we should be blamed for adopting it; and you cannot suppose *that any one will incur a risk where he can expect no profit.*" And on Mr. Boswell's observing, that however unjust mankind might be in general, no one would be likely to avow an opinion so evidently absurd, as that a general accident was one peculiar to the plan, the Member of the Navy Board replied, "We cannot make mankind (be as we wish), we must take them as we find them." Had this extreme caution and attention to self-interest influenced our Admirals, what state would England have now been in? Had Lord Nelson, Lord St. Vincent, Lord Howe, or any others of our Naval Heroes, waited to deliberate on the effect their acting for the benefit of their country would have on their individual interest twenty years afterwards, their names would now be as little known to their country as those of the Members of Boards for the last century. Indeed this aversion to improvement in naval architecture seems a fixed principle with the Naval Boards, so much as to be in some degree a national disgrace. Must it not grieve our naval heroes to own, that almost every improvement in the shape, size, and construction of ships has originated with that enemy, which to see and to defeat has been almost always to them the same event? and that while the French government

government employed their most skilful and scientific engineers to improve the form of their ships, our Naval Boards have been content to follow them at an humble and remote distance, and in many instances only when urged by the repeated remonstrances of our Admirals and Captains? That our navy has always triumphed is alone due to seamen; and that they have been thus successful proves only that superior courage and skill, notwithstanding the disadvantage of inferior ships and various other impediments, will ever triumph: the existence of these impediments add, indeed, to the glory of our seamen, as the more difficult the victory the more was their honour: but surely no one will pretend to say, that either credit or honour is due to those, whose supineness in a principal part of their duty threw those impediments in the way of the naval service. Some of the few improvements in ships which have been made at home have been at last admitted into the navy; but then this has been done so tediously and reluctantly, as to fully prove the aversion to all improvement in the Boards: even the simple and obvious improvement of falling palls to capstans, by which so many lives and limbs have been saved, was for many years used in the ships employed by the East India Company, before they were permitted even a trial in the navy; and to this day the round rudder heads used so long in the same East India ships, though found to be so serviceable and advantageous in them, have not been thought worth a thought by our Boards.

After the ship Economy having been now four years exposed on long voyages in every latitude, and in the most trying climates; after its having encountered the most severe weather, and experienced every accident which can prove a ship, it might be hoped that even the selfish caution of the Navy Board would be sufficiently satisfied to give the plan a fair trial, when even their own inspectors have acknowledged the benefit its object would be to the country; but after what has been avowed by one of its members, it is vain to expect that any one there will second any measure from which, to use that Member's own words, *he can expect no profit.*

Description *of the Ship* Economy, 200 *Tons Measurement, built according to J. W. Boswell's Patent, now lying in the outward West India Dock.*

Having promised a description of this ship in our second volume, page 296, we take the opportunity of its being in port to give it, that it may be made more clear by inspection of the ship, if desired.

The plan adopted in the formation of this ship is that designed for large ships of 500 tons and upwards, and the third mentioned in the specification.*

Its external appearance is not different from that of any other vessel of the size, and the outward planking is done in the usual manner. It is the internal construction alone to which the patent relates, and that is as follows:

The best general idea of it will be obtained by conceiving a vessel built with timbers, or ribs, much smaller than usual, with an internal framing, so contrived as to give every requisite support and strength both to them and the entire vessel, with the least timber, and of the cheapest form, and without any knee-timber.

The floor-timbers are molded seven inches, and sided six: these, with four futtocks and two top timbers at each side, form what is called a frame of timbers. Those small timbers are laid down so that their terminations all fall out in fair lines, which (below the wales) are nearly the same as the ribband lines. Along those lines inside are laid fore and aft ribs, from stem to stern post, so as to support the extremity of every one of the small ribs in the ship. The fore and aft ribs are six in number at each side; one directly under the water ways, another at the level of the lower beams, and the other four placed nearly at equal distances between these last and the kelson: each pair uniting in a breast-hook at the stem.

The pieces of timber which form these fore and aft ribs are scarfed at their extremities

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* See vol. II. Second Series, p. 81, of Repertory of Arts.

extremities with hook scarfs, and are so placed that the scarfs fall out in fair vertical sections of the ship, where they are supported, and firmly bolted to transverse framings, contrived so as to unite the greatest strength with the least obstruction, and which are five in number in the whole ship.

Those transverse framings are each formed by one upper and one lower beam, two pair of futtocks, a floor timber, two pair of top timbers, and four bracing pieces; the whole connected into one firm framing, self-supported, independent of any other part.

The four bracing pieces form each framing into a set of triangular compartments: which triangular framing gives the greatest stability possible, as a triangular frame cannot be made to give in, or alter its figure, by any force which is not sufficient to tear its connecting parts through the timber of which it is composed; a property which no other figure possesses.

These transverse framings (besides supporting the fore and aft ribs, and by them the small vertical timbers) tie and unite the vessel together across ship, so as to give much greater strength than hanging-knees, whose place they supply, at a much cheaper rate.

The framing of the deck is also divided into triangular compartments, so as to preclude the use of lodging-knees entirely; which compartments are formed by six pieces of timber, which proceed obliquely at each side, from the top of each beam to the fore and aft rib next adjoining, into which they are dovetailed and bolted; long carlings from beam to beam, at each side of the hatchways, with these pieces, support small ledges, on which the deck is laid in the usual manner.

Advantages of this Method of framing Ships.

1st. Timber of less than one fourth of the usual girth can be used, in this method, in constructing large vessels, for nearly four-fifths of their frames.

This will be a direct saving in the difference of price of small timber and large for the quantity used; for large vessels this will be considerable, and, according to the present contract prices for naval timber, not less than from two to four pounds per load. Besides this, it is a great national benefit in another point; for, by this means, timber of half the number of years growth, or less, can be used for naval purposes; and thus forty or fifty years, or even less, be sufficient to produce timber fit for the navy, instead of the vast period of near a century, now necessary; by which the land will not only produce a double crop in the same time, fit for this purpose, but all danger be removed of there being a stoppage of building, for want of a supply of timber, at any future period; an event extremely probable to take place, from the increasing difficulty of getting the large kind used at present in the Royal Dock Yards.

2d. Much shorter timber may, in forming the futtocks, be used, without any danger of weakening the ship, on account of the great support given to them by the fore and aft ribs, and other internal framing before described.

The advantage of this is, that it renders the compass timber for futtocks easier to be procured, and prevents any necessity of using any timber cut across the grain.

3d. The use of knees of every kind is superseded by this mode of building, as the triangular framing of the decks gives all the effect of lodging-knees, and that of the transverse frames more than supplies the support given by hanging-knees.

This would occasion a considerable saving in large vessels, on account of the great price of knee-timber fit for them; which, for that of 30 feet meeting, was, when the ship was building, near ten pound per load, and for the smallest kind, taken at the Portsmouth Royal Dock Yard, not less than 8l. 15s. and is now much dearer.

4th. Plank of half the usual thickness may be used for the lining; the great support given by the fore and aft ribs rendering any use of inside plank, to strengthen the vessel, needless, and confining its purpose merely to prevent ballast, or other matters, from getting between the timbers, so as to rest on the outside plank.

This

This will also cause a saving of consequence in large vessels; plank of all kinds, but particularly that of great thickness, being the next dearest article to knee-timber.

5th. It is probable a much less quantity might be used with safety in this method, on account of the great strength produced for the timber used, 1st. By the triangular framing. 2d. By every timber having a solid support at each extremity. 3d. By the increase of thickness from in to out all along the fore and aft ribs being very great in proportion to the timber used.

6th. It is probable, vessels built in this method will last many years longer before decay; because the use of small timber admits of a kind more spiny and durable than the large, which is often dotard, and never lasts so long; and also because this construction admits of a free circulation of air among the timbers, than which nothing is known to contribute so much to their preservation. It is moreover conceived, that the timbers being prevented from working by the solid support each has at its extremities, will cause the vessel to wear less, and at the same time render it safer, by diminishing the danger of starting planks, or otherwise causing bad leaks.

7th. The timber of considerable size used in this method is almost all nearly straight, or of very little curvature, on account of its running fore and aft.

This kind is much easier to procure than large compass timber.

8th. Short-top timber and coarse butts can be worked up to advantage, instead of being sold for less than half cost, or burned; as this kind will do sufficiently well for the number of short ledges in the deck frames, and to support the lining at the floor, which are wanted in this mode of building.

9th. Vessels built in this manner will not be so liable as others to hog, or have their backs broken, on account of the great strength lengthways, caused by the fore and aft ribs.

10th. Vessels so built will be drier, from the circulation of air before-mentioned, and having the floor-lining detached from the timbers; which quality renders this construction particularly valuable for the ships used in the East and West India trade.

The advantages above recited relate to vessels entirely formed in this manner. It should be known also, that parts of this plan may be applied with profit. The mode of framing the decks, for instance, might be used to save lodging-knees in vessels built in other respects in the usual mode. Other parts of it might be applied to the strengthening old vessels, which, by this means, might be made to last many years, after they would otherwise have been unserviceable.

The principles of this method of building are capable of being extended still further than they are in the vessel here described: the triangular framing may be even adopted to the construction of fore and aft ribs, so that they could be constructed also of small timber, if required. Thus, by this means, the former barrier to the increase of size in ships is removed, as it no longer now depends on the size of timber; and ships of any dimensions required may be formed, of any strength requisite, of small timber.

Account of Instruments for producing Fire and Light instantaneously, made by direction of Mr. Lorentz.

A description of the plan of these instruments, and some observations relative to them, were given with the account of Mr. Lorentz's patent last November, in our second volume, page 524. Mr. Lorentz has lately had them prepared for sale at No. 23, Frith-street, Soho, where a personal inspection has enabled us more fully to consider their merits. The instrument for producing fire by electricity and hydrogen gas, is made so as to be highly ornamental; it is in the shape of a very handsome pedestal, formed of fine mahogany, with gilt brass-work; an elegant figure of Fame, bearing a torch, stands on the pedestal, beneath which lies a small figure of a serpent in brass, opposite to which is fixed a wax taper. On turning a button, a flame darts from the mouth of the serpent, and instantly lights the taper. The whole forms a very elegant

ornament for the study or chamber of a nobleman or gentleman, who can afford to give six or seven guineas for a very handsome instrument, of considerable utility, entirely free from all the inconveniencies caused by matches or tinder in producing the same effect.

The other instrument for giving fire by compressed air, is equally convenient as the other; but as matches and tinder must be used with it, its superiority over a common steel and flint is not so striking. It forms an handsome walking stick, which is hollow, and unscrews in two places; in the lower part is contained a store of matches, and of agaric or German tinder; in the middle lies the syringe, formed of brass, for compressing the air; and in the top part is placed the portion of tinder that takes fire on forcing down the piston of the air syringe. It is a very convenient instrument for gentlemen who are fond of smoking, and has the recommendation of being sold for about a sixth of the price of the other above described. It is probable this latter circumstance may render it a more profitable concern to Mr. Lorentz than the electrical apparatus, for numbers would think little of giving a guinea for such a convenience, who would not be at all willing to part with six or seven.

Though Mr. Lorentz cannot be considered as the first inventor of these methods of causing fire, as stated before in our second volume, yet the public are under some obligations to him for bringing them into use, and for establishing a place of sale, where any one that pleases may have convenient and elegant instruments for effecting them, without the trouble of directing workmen to make them, at an expence which, taking every fit matter into account, is not unreasonable.

Description of an Exhausting Machine, on the principle of the Torricellian Vacuum, by Dr. Thomas Stewart Trail. Nicholson's Phil. Jour. vol. xxi. p. 63.

The object of Dr. Trail's exhausting machine is to cause a vacuum in the receiver, by means of mercury, with which the receiver is previously filled; beneath the receiver a thick circular plate of ground glass is supported by a wooden frame about three feet high; from the center of the glass plate, perforated for this purpose, an iron tube descends into a wooden tub placed under it to receive the mercury; this tube is about three feet in length, and of the diameter of a common barometer tube. The receiver is to be ground in the usual manner to the plate, and is to be fitted with an air-tight cover for its upper orifice; to the glass plate a stop cock is fitted, to admit air into the receiver: the iron tube has a stop cock at each end; the lower one is opened and shut by a wire descending into the tub; its upper orifice is formed into an inside screw, by which the transferrer, or any other apparatus to be used within the receiver, may be fixed to the plate. The inside of the tub ought to be coated with a strong varnish, to prevent the mercury from passing through its joinings; it may have a cover so fitted as to keep out the dust while it admits air. The lower extremity of the iron tube should be fastened to the bottom of the tub, to keep it steady. The glass plate should be furnished with a rim, rising above it about two inches, to prevent any mercury from running over that escapes. This rim is best made in the wood-work of the frame. The tubes and cocks which enter into the plate should all be well cemented to it.

To use the machine, the iron tube is first to be filled with mercury, then the plate is to be anointed with hogs-lard, and the receiver is to be placed on it. After shutting the lower stop cock, the receiver is next to be filled with mercury, which the Doctor has found that the tenacity of the hogs-lard will prevent from running out, and the cover is to be placed on it. After this preparation, on opening the lower cock of the iron pipe the mercury will run into the tub and leave the receiver exhausted. By shutting the upper cock of the iron pipe the vacuum is rendered more secure.

A small degree of contrivance will adapt this apparatus to every experiment which can be performed by the common air pump. The method of managing some of these experiments is described by the Doctor, and that for others may easily be conceived.

The

The advantages of this apparatus over the common air pump are,

1st. The vacuum caused by it will be more perfect.

2d. There will be a saving of manual labour.

3d. The exhaustion will be more quickly performed than in a common air pump.

4th. It is more simple and less liable to be deranged.

In a chemical laboratory a principal part of the expence of this apparatus will be saved, as the same mercury will do for it, and for the trough used in chemical experiments with the gases. The Doctor found that anointing the edges of the receiver and the glass plate with hogs-lard was sufficient to retain the mercury, when he filled an open-topped receiver with it to the height of two feet. In fitting on the top of the receiver it may, however, be proper to press gently with the hand on the receiver till the atmospheric pressure begins to act on it.

Mr. Nicholson mentions in a note that this contrivance is sufficiently distinct from those of Dr. Clare, and Sir A. N. Edelcrantz and others described in his journal, wherein mercury is used in exhausting air, to merit notice.

Dr. Trail shews in the beginning of his paper, that it is impossible to form a perfect vacuum with a common air pump, which renders his contrivance the more valuable.

On the discovery of a Mine of Oxid of Zinc on the Estate of Lord Ribblesdale, and of his application of it as a basis for paint. Trans. Soc. Arts, v. 25.

The colour of Lord Ribblesdale's oxid of zinc is of a dull white. The mines where it is found are at Mallam Moors, in Craven, Yorkshire, in different parts of upwards of eleven thousand acres belonging to his Lordship: where the mineral is found there were formerly copper mines.

The zinc oxid is found in caverns, one of which is one hundred and four yards in length, another forty-four, and a third eighty-four yards, and about fourteen yards wide. It lies in strata from three to six feet thick along the bottom of these caverns, at about eight fathoms from the surface of the earth: the whitest and best coloured sort lies the lowest. Above two thousand tons of it has been sold to make brass with copper at Birmingham and other places, and it continues to be sold for this purpose.

Lord Ribblesdale has used it a basis for paint during twelve years for his house, paling, and doors, and states that it answers extremely well, never peels off, and that its whiteness improves by age: at first it is of a delicate stone colour, but in time becomes equal to the best white lead, to which it is greatly superior in body and adhesion, in never blistering, and in being perfectly free from the poisonous quality which renders the latter so injurious to all who paint with it. It covers a much larger surface in painting than an equal quantity of white lead, nearly half as much more, and forms a body so hard on the wood as to resist the edge of an adze. It also strongly cements together boards painted with it; and on palings resists moisture remarkably well, and forms a good basis for other colours.

His Lordship had one of his Majesty's ships painted with it about six years ago, and it has been found that nothing can exceed the resistance which it makes to the efforts of the sea water to decompose it. The price put on it by his Lordship will not exceed that of white lead, and except in the finest preparations, will be considerably less. The Society of Arts have voted his Lordship a silver medal for his communications respecting this zinc ore, samples of which, and of the paint made with it, are preserved in their repository; but they state at the same time, that it did not appear upon trial by various persons fully to answer the purposes of white lead, as a basis for paint.

The Society of Arts and his Lordship seem to be at variance in their accounts of the merits of this ore as a basis for paint. The word of a noble Lord cannot be doubted, and yet it is contradicted. It is to be wished that the Society had been more particular in their statement both of the persons who tried it and

and of the points in which it was inferior to white lead. If the trials were made either by professed colourmen, or house-painters, their report is at least to be taken with caution, as they have an obvious interest in depreciating the character of this oxid of zinc.

What his Lordship says of it should at least induce a fair trial of it, for its qualities stated by him are of the most valuable nature. His Lordship would do a real service to the public by inducing some house in London to keep it for public sale, which is the most effectual way of having its value known.

The price his Lordship puts on it is, however, much too high, considering the expence of the process for making white lead, and that his Lordship finds this ore ready prepared to his hand, it appears that it ought to be sold for a fourth of the price of this article; and there can be little doubt that the greater sale the reduction of price would occasion, in reality would make the concern more profitable.

Its use as a pigment for the bottoms of ships deserves particularly to be attended to, on account of its hardness and durable nature.

M. Morveau, in a very interesting paper on the preparation of colours, published in the memoirs of the academy of Dijon, mentions the white prepared from zinc as being the only one which could bear the contact of sulphurated hydrogen without losing its colour, and prefers it to every other sort. He tried many experiments with it, and different modes of preparing it, but thinks that the simple calcination of it, as it is done for preparing flowers of zinc, produces the finest and whitest colour. A good translation of Morveau's paper may be found in the Repository of Arts, vol. vi. p. 344.

Accounts of the advantages of zinc in the metallic state, and of its application to various purposes, are inserted in our first volume, p. 86, and in vol. ii. p. 527.

Method used in China of propagating Fruit Trees by abscision, from a paper by Dr. Howison. Trans. Soc. Arts. vol. 25.

The Chinese, in place of raising fruit trees by grafting, or from seeds, as is common in Europe, have adopted the following method of increasing them.

They select such a branch as will least injure a tree by its removal, and round it, as near as they can conveniently to the trunk, wind a rope made of straw, besmeared with cow dung, until a ball is formed, five or six times the diameter of the branch, which is intended as a bed into which the young roots may shoot. After this they immediately under the ball divide the bark down to the wood, for nearly two-thirds of the circumference of the branch. A cocoa nut shell or small pot is then hung over the ball, with a hole in its bottom, so small that water put into it will only fall in drops; by which means the rope ball is constantly kept moist.

During three succeeding weeks nothing farther is required but to supply the vessels with water. At the end of this time one-third of the remaining bark is cut, and the former incision is carried considerably deeper into the wood, as by this time it is expected that some of the roots have struck into the rope.

After a similar period the same operation is repeated, and in about two months from the commencement of the operation the roots may be generally seen intersecting each other on the surface of the ball, which is a sign that the branch may then be separated from the tree. This is best done by sawing it off, care being taken not to shake off the rope by the motion. The branch is then planted as a young tree.

Dr. Howison thinks some longer time would be necessary for this process in this country; but from some experiments made on cherry trees, supposes one month more would be sufficient.

The spring is the best period for the operation, as the roots are observed to be longer shooting when the tree is in leaf.

Three or four years alone are sufficient to bring the sets to a full bearing state, when taken from the tree of any considerable size, which renders this method vastly more expeditious than grafting, for propagating fruit trees.

Some

Some orange trees raised by this way, in the Prince of Wales Island, in 1791, had in 1795 produced two plentiful crops, while some produced from seed in 1786 had not then born fruit.

The Doctor thinks that this method might be applied to forest trees to great advantage, as the infancy of trees would thus, in a great measure, be done away with.

The adoption of it in this country will at all events be of great use in multiplying plants, which are natives of warmer climates, whose seeds do not arrive here at sufficient maturity to render them prolific.

The Doctor observed that the branches bore more fruit, while under the process of abscission, during the time of bearing, which confirms what has been before observod on this subject in England.

The Chinese have the same opinion that Linnæus had respecting the pith of trees being essential tothe formation of the seed. By cutting into the trunk of the guava tree, before it has produced, and making a division in the pith, they have obtained fruit without seed.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX.

To the number of edifices dedicated to dramatic exhibition which have of late years suffered by conflagration, we have to add the elegant Theatre of Covent Garden, which is now laid in ashes. On the 20th of September, about four in the morning, this extensive building was discovered to be in flames, and so fierce and rapid was the fire, that no exertion could stop its course. Within less than three hours after its commencement, the whole of the interior of the Theatre was destroyed: and nearly the whole of the scenery, wardrobe, musical and dramatic libraries, and properties of all kinds, were a heap of smoking ruins. All the books and papers relative to the concerns of the Theatre, as well as the produce of the preceding night's performance, were preserved. A considerable number of engines promptly attended, but there was a shameful want of water for some time. It was upwards of an hour before some of the engines could be supplied. They afterwards played with the utmost possible effect for upwards of an hour, when the roof of the Theatre fell in with a dreadful crash, and thus announced the destruction of the interior of this elegant building. The fire raged with most violence at the upper end of Bow-street, the western side of which, nearly as far as the Police Office, was soon burned down, to the extent of seven or eight houses, including the public house called the Strugglers. In Hart-street, the flames communicated to the houses on the opposite side of the street from the Theatre, and four of them caught fire at the same moment; but by the great activity of the people and firemen, they suffered little more damage than a severe scorching. Great apprehensions were entertained for the safety of Drury Lane Theatre, as many large flakes of fire were carried by the wind in that direction. A great number of people mounted the roof, ready in case of actual fire, to open the large cistern of water provided there. They also stopped the windows with wet cloths, to prevent the entrance of the flames, and thus secured the Theatre.—All the people in the neighbourhood took a similar precaution, and were employed with their servants in picking up the flakes of fire as they fell upon the roofs or in their yards. This is the whole extent of injury sustained in the neighbourhood; but as to the Theatre itself, it is totally consumed, and on the Hart-street side; not even the walls are standing. The Ship public house, two houses adjoining, and Mr. Brandon's, the box-keeper's office, are all that remain at that angle.

The most painful part of this dreadful event remains to be described. At an early stage of the fire, a party of firemen broke open the great door under the Piazza, on the western side, and having introduced an engine into the passage in the interior, they directed it towards the galleries, where the fire appeared

peared to burn most fiercely, when, melancholy to relate, part of the building fell in, and buried them, with several others who had rushed in along with them, in the ruins. It was a considerable time before the rubbish, which now blocked up the door, could be cleared away. When it was effected, a miserable spectacle presented itself. The mangled bodies of the dead and dying appearing through the rubbish, or discovered in each advance to remove it. At twelve o'clock eleven dead bodies had been removed into the church-yard of St. Paul's, on the opposite side of Covent-garden. Three of them were firemen belonging to the Phœnix Fire Office. Several were sent to the Middlesex Hospital, miserably mangled, with broken limbs and dreadful bruises. The number of killed cannot yet be ascertained; but it is generally believed that they are not short of forty. The Coroner's inquest has already sat on eighteen bodies. While the firemen were endeavouring to recover the bodies of their companions, a party of ruffians, taking advantage of the general consternation and distress, began to plunder; but eight of them were apprehended and lodged in Covent-garden watch-house. A gang of pickpockets also availed themselves of the general distress, and produced a tumult and confusion. The neighbouring watch-houses could not contain them, and many were taken to Drury-lane Theatre. The value of the property saved is very inconsiderable. —About forty or fifty pieces of painted trumpery were seen lying on the pavement under the Piazzas, and consisted of the stars and banners of the mock Spanish and Peruvian processions which had amused the town with mimic show a few hours only before this real, this awful tragedy commenced. In melancholy contrast to objects like these, porters were employed, bearing out, one after another, the mutilated remains of the ill-fated individuals who fell sacrifices to the destructive element, in the assiduous discharge of their duty.

The cause of the fire is attributed to various circumstances; the most probable is the following:—in the play of Pizarro, which was performed on the last evening, when the soldiers discharged their pieces, the blank cartridges and wadding are supposed to have lodged among the wings, and other parts of the stage, where the sparks remained unnoticed. According to some accounts, it first broke out in one of the scene-rooms, adjacent to Hart-street, and from thence instantly communicated to the stage. Others represent it as having originated in the shilling gallery, where there had been much riot and confusion the preceding night.

The exact sum for which the Theatre was insured was 52,000l. viz.—at the Sun Office, 25,000l.; the Phœnix, 15,000l.; Royal Exchange, 7,000l.; Union, 5,000l. The estimated value of the property was 107,000l.—Mr. Harris, as the principal proprietor, is the greatest sufferer. Next to the proprietors of the Theatre, the Musicians have sustained the heaviest loss. They are in the constant habit of leaving all their instruments at the Theatre; they were all destroyed, with the music, and other appurtenances. Mr. Ware, the musician, has lost a fiddle worth 300 guineas. It was the first night in two years that he had left it behind him at the theatre. To aggravate the loss in this department, there are no copies of many of the best pieces. All the literary productions of the house are also destroyed, and of many of them also there are no copies. Miss Bolton, it is said, lost her jewels, and Mr. Munden his wardrobe; Miss Bristow has lost dresses and ornaments to a considerable amount. She had only deposited them in the Theatre on the preceding day. All the other performers have also shared in the calamity; and, according to the usages of the Theatre, their salaries cease until their performances can be resumed. By this catastrophe, upwards of 200 other persons, with their families, consisting of artificers, door-keepers, and other inferior servants, employed about the Theatre, are thrown out of bread.

Amongst other losses, the society which held their meetings at the top of the theatre, called the *Beef-Steak Club*, which has existed for many years, have lost all their old stock of wines, worth at least 1,500l., besides their sideboard and table implements. In the saloon a loss has been sustained of 200l., expended in wines, liquors, and refreshments for the frequenters of the theatre, not a single article of which was either saved or insured.

The Proprietors of the Opera-house have in the handsomest manner offered the

the use of their theatre to their brethren of Covent-garden, who, on the 26th, commenced their campaign in the Hay Market with the tragedy of Douglas. Previous to the commencement of the piece, Mr. Kemble made an address to the audience, at the close of which he informed them that a new theatre would be ready for their reception in next September.

After relating this calamity, it may not be uninteresting to give a complete list of theatrical conflagrations in London :—

Drury-Lane Theatre was built in 1662; destroyed by fire 1672; rebuilt 1674; pulled down 1791; rebuilt 1794.

Covent-Garden Theatre was built in 1733; enlarged 1792; destroyed by fire 1808.

Opera-House, Haymarket, opened 1704; burnt down 1789; the foundation of a new one laid 1790.

Pantheon, Oxford-street, opened 1772; converted to an Opera-house 1784; burnt down 1792.

Astley's Amphitheatre, burnt down on the Duke of York's birth-night, 1794; rebuilt; and burnt down a second time in 1803.

Royal Circus, destroyed by fire on the Prince of Wales's birth-day, 1805.

It is an extraordinary fact, and redounds highly to the credit of Mr. Lancaster's system of education, that the whole disbursements of his school from Midsummer 1806 to Midsummer 1807, were only 156l. 10s., with which sum he educated 900 boys and 250 girls; being an expence of rather less than 3s. each.

Married. At *St. George's, Hanover-square*, Alexander Morrison, Esq. of Gunnersbury-house, to Miss Jane Carnell, youngest daughter of John Carnell, Esq. of Seven Oaks, Kent.—At *St. George's, Bloomsbury*, Ephraim Goatley, Esq. of George-street, Adelphi, to Miss Edith Minifie, of Russell-street, Covent-garden.—At *St. Lawrence Jewry*, James Coulston, Esq. of Cheapside, to Miss Elizabeth Ditchman, of Hackney.—At *St. John's, Wapping*, Captain Thomas Hustler, of Whitby, to Miss Catharine Cook, of the same place, niece of Captain James Cook, the celebrated circumnavigator.—At *St. John's Church, Hackney*, John King, Esq. Barrister at Law, of the Inner Temple, and Fellow of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, to Caroline Matilda Staple, of London-field, Hackney.—Henry Gilbert, Esq. of Blackfriars-road, to Miss Matilda White, of Southgate.—At the *Quakers' Meeting-house, Winchmore-hill*, Stephen Waller, of Cheapside, to Ann, the only daughter of John Blakes, of Cambridge-heath, Hackney. At *Hendon*, James Foot, Esq. of Islington, to Miss Slade, of Guther-edge, Hendon.—At *Kensington*, Capt. Forrest, of Benfield, in Berkshire, to Miss Mary Lowther, eldest daughter of Colonel James Lowther, M. P. for Westmoreland.—William Augustus Dingley, Esq. Captain in the Royal Artillery, to Miss Amelia Thompson.—At *St. Luke's, Chelsea*, William Chambers, Esq. of Aylesham, in Norfolk, to Miss Stewart, late of Swannington-hall, in the same county.

Died. In *Fludyer-street*, Westminster, Arthur Windus, Esq. who had filled the situation of cashier, and other departments, in the War Office, for upwards of twenty-seven years, with the greatest honour and integrity. By his superiors he was much respected, and his loss is lamented by a numerous circle of friends, to whom his social virtues had endeared him. The public has lost a faithful servant, his family an indulgent parent, and his acquaintances an honest and much valued friend.—In *Beaumont-street*, Lady Ann Rich, widow of the late Admiral Sir Thomas Rich, Bart.—In *James-street, Westminster*, aged 45, after a long and severe illness, which she bore with pious resignation, the Hon. Miss Trefusis, sister to the late, and aunt to the present Lord Clinton. Of her taste and genius, the public have just seen a specimen, in several beautiful pieces of poetry. Great, however, as those qualities confessedly were, they equalled not her virtues. To the poor she was a liberal, and, if her circumstances be considered, a munificent benefactress.—The tale of want never reached her ear in vain; and though it may be feared that she sometimes gave away unwisely, yet the purity of her motives always ennobled her bounty. As a companion she was pleasant, cheerful, and instructive; as a friend, faithful and affectionate; and one of the last acts of her innocent and benevolent life

life was to prove her tender attachment to her family, by bequeathing the residue of her once ample fortune to a beloved sister, to whom she was deservedly endeared.—In *Ludgate*, aged 33, Mr. Robert Hudson, wholesale tea dealer.—In *Southampton-row*, aged 52, William Nepecker, Esq. of the Royal Naval Hospital, Deal.—At *Knightsbridge*, aged 81, the Rev. John Trotter, D. D. minister of the Scotch Church, in Swallow-street.—In *Hans-place*, aged 81, William Daw, Esq. Barrister, a Member of the Honourable Societies of the Temple. In 1760 he succeeded his father as Clerk of the King's Silver in the Court of Common Pleas, who had held the office from 1720.—At *Brompton*, Benjamin Harding, Esq. late of St. James's-street.—At *Hammersmith-terrace*, Frederic Albert, Esq. of St. James's Palace.—At *Islington*, aged 84, John Howorth, Esq. one of the Commissioners of Hackney coaches.—After a lingering illness, which was borne with uncommon fortitude and resignation, in the twenty-fourth year of her age, Miss M. A. Coleman, only daughter of the late Wm. Coleman, Esq. of Turkey Street, Enfield. Her obliging disposition, her amiable temper, the suavity of her manners, and above all, the goodness of her heart had endeared her to all who knew her, and have left an impression on the minds of her afflicted relatives and friends, which can never be effaced while life and reason remain.—In the *London Hospital* (from the consequences of a fall into the hold of an Aberdeen trader at Hoare's Wharf) John Davidson, a man of eccentric character, but of inoffensive manners, well known in the vicinity of Wapping, by the name of John Thompson's Wallet. Compelled by adverse circumstances to leave Scotland, his native land, he entered on board a man of war, where he received a fracture on his head, which occasioned his at times exhibiting symptoms of derangement, but such were the retentive faculties of his mind that he could repeat the "Gentle Shepherd" throughout, and most of Allan Ramsay's other works, as well as others of the Scottish poets, but that which he recited with the greatest feeling, was the Hon. Henry Erskine's Verses upon the Emigration of the Highlanders. He possessed a lively fancy, and a poetic vein, which he occasionally indulged, and though none of his effusions have appeared in print, many of them would have done credit to Ramsay or Burns.—James Artis, a waterman, belonging to Wapping stairs. The unfortunate man, though fifty years of age, in a frolic, placed himself upon a sack of wheat suspended to a rope, which was then, by means of a pulley, drawn up to a warehouse, belonging to Mr. Vinor. When the deceased arrived at the top, about thirty feet from the wharf, he grasped a rope, the sack flew from him, and letting go his hold, he fell upon an iron pile, and thence into a barge, and was killed.

John Jones, Esq. (p. 266) possessed an uncommon portion of health and vivacity of manners. Though during the greater part of his life he was daily accustomed to the social intercourse and convivial society of his neighbouring friends, it is remarkable that to the time of his death he was never known to have a day's illness, or to complain of the head-ache. The virtuous and honest man, whether highly or lowly circumstanced, he always made an object of his warmest attention and regard, and many a base designing and hypocritical character has by him been ferretted and sent out of his company. He had a rooted idea that the future welfare of mankind required no other or better precepts, than what are laid down in the Bible, and that the ceremonial difference of opinion among sectaries, did more injury than service to the cause of Christianity. He also strongly maintained that all the writers upon Moral Philosophy, published only superfluous and perplexing dissertations upon one only essential and evident proposition, "Be an honest man."

BERKSHIRE.

Married. At *Sunning Church.*—Capt. Abdy of the Royal Navy, to Miss Rich, daughter of the late Sir Thomas Rich, Bart.

Died. At *Southcote*, the venerable Count Hector, late Governor of Brest, and Lieut.-General of the French Marine. He had just completed his eighty-sixth year, with faculties unimpaired, and general good health. He was a good and religious man, and during four months that he struggled with a painful disease

disease, sensible and suffering to the last, was never known to utter an impatient murmur, or shew the least symptom of peevishness, dying as he lived, the pious, resigned, and exemplary Christian. This venerable and loyal character withstood the most pressing solicitations to return to France. He determined to follow the fortunes of his king. His skill and bravery in his profession could be equalled only by his Christian virtues and his unbounded benevolence. To the politeness of the old French court, he added the openness and liberality of his profession, and leaves behind him no superior, and few equals in public and private worth.—At *Newbury*, Mr. Samuel Grigg. He was for many years a Member of the Corporation, and had twice served the office of Mayor. In his various connexions as a magistrate, a man of business, a gentleman, and a friend, his scrupulous integrity and liberality of disposition, rendered him the object of universal regret and esteem, and he will long be remembered with sentiments of the most affectionate regret by all who had the happiness of his acquaintance.

In the battle at *Vimiera* on the 21st of August, Lieut.-Colonel Charles Douglas Taylor, of the 20th Light Dragoons. Colonel Taylor was son of Dr. Taylor of Reading. This gallant Officer at the head of a small body of cavalry defeated and pursued a numerous force of the enemy, and drove them into a wood, where they were reinforced and rallied for a short time, when he was shot through the heart. The steady discipline of the 20th Light Dragoons, and the gallantry by which they distinguished themselves in the glorious action of Vimiera, are the best proofs of the merits of this excellent Officer: as a man his heart was "full of the milk of human kindness;" as a gentleman his manners were elegant; as a Christian he was "steadfast in faith" and "joyful through hope," whilst "charity the very bond of peace and of all virtues," was eminently his. He has left an amiable widow and three children to lament their irreparable loss, and dwell with fond and lasting remembrance on his virtues. Hail and farewell,

"O dolor, atque decus magnum rediture
"Parenti!——"

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Died.—Benjamin Way, Esq. of Denham Place, Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, President of Guy's Hospital, and late Sub-Governor of the South-Sea Company.—At *Dallingham-House*, aged 80, Mrs. Crop, relict of R. Crop, Esq. of Westoe Lodge, Cambridgeshire.—At *Stoney Stratford*, James Richardson, an old huntsman, (usually called *Old Jemmy*) who had for many years kept the Fighting Cocks public-house. He had attained his 96th year with unimpaired faculties, notwithstanding it is supposed that he had not been sober a whole day during the last *forty years*. There is great reason however to believe that his excess very much shortened his days.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The three English Declamation prizes at Trinity College, are this year adjudged to Messrs. Hodson, Arnold, and Musgrave.

The Rev. John Doncaster, M. A. Fellow of Christ's College, is unanimously elected Head Master of the Grammar School of Oakingham, in Rutlandshire.

The Rev. James Sherrard Coleman, of St. John's College, is presented to the Rectory of Houghton, in Leicestershire.

Died.—Aged 59, Mrs. Morgan, wife of the Rev. Dr. Morgan, Prebendary of Ely, and Rector of Streetham. She was one of the daughters of the late Mr. Joseph Gibbs, organist of St. Mary Tower, Ipswich; and was author of "A Tour to Milford Haven, in 1791." The uniform tenor of her conduct through life conspicuously shewed what a grace the practice of domestic virtues, and the duties of religion and humanity, diffuse over a vigorous understanding, a brilliant genius, an elegant taste, and a lively wit. The lamentations of rich and poor at the time of her decease and at her funeral, bore unequivocal testimony to her affectionate disposition towards her friends, and her attention to the wants of the distressed. The cheerfulness with which she supported

ported a long illness, and the tranquillity with which she resigned her soul to her Creator, are decisive proofs of the sincerity of her piety, and the firmness of her faith.

CHESHIRE.

Died—At *Hooton Park*, aged 25, John Stanley Massey Stanley, Esq. second surviving son of the late Sir Thomas Stanley, Bart.—At *Chester*, Mr. Thomas Bennion, one of the Aldermen of the corporation of that city. With a strong and clear mind, he possessed a goodness of heart, and sociability of disposition, that endeared him to all his acquaintance.

CORNWALL.

The Lord Warden at the Stanneries has lately been at Scilly, inspecting the harbours, with a view to its becoming a naval station. We have heard that the islands have been purchased for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who, upon becoming Lord of the wrecks there, will enjoy a considerable accession of revenue.—The following is an accurate statement of the present population of these islands.

	Males.	Females.	
St. Mary's	546	619	
Trescow	197	214	
St. Agnes	101	114	
St. Martin's	94	112	
Bryer	48	42	
Sampson's	16	17	
	1002	1118	Total 2120

Died. At *Thancks*, near Therpoint, Mrs. Neesham, wife of Capt. Neesham, of the royal navy.—At *Truro*, aged 102, Mr. John Lance. He had never experienced a day's sickness previous to that which occasioned his death. He has left a widow aged 95.—At *Illogan*, aged 16, John Willis. He was found dead in the ditch adjoining an orchard belonging to Messrs. Fox, of Poole. By the evidence before the coroner's jury it appeared, that the deceased, with his father and several other men, were detected on Sunday morning, about one o'clock, robbing the above orchard, by four men, servants of Messrs. Fox. On being detected, and called to stand and tell their names, one of them swore out that they would stand, but upon the near approach of the servants, the robbers made off, and one of the servants fired; they continued their pursuit, and were fortunate in catching the father of the deceased, before he could escape out of the orchard; while some of the servants were securing the old man, the others were in a field adjoining the orchard; he called to them, swore at them, and abused them for being cowards, in deserting him, for that they had promised before they set out to stand by each other, and bade them fire away, fire! upon that several large stones were thrown into the orchard, some of which struck the men who had charge of the old man, and the servants being apprehensive for the safety of their lives, one of them fired his gun at the hedge, the contents of which entered the body of John Willis, carrying a piece of the breast bone into the heart; the surgeon could find no shots in the heart, but several were found below in his bowels. Notwithstanding the lad must have fallen by his comrades' side, they continued throwing stones, until three men with their dogs, who had been watching their own orchards, hearing the reports of their guns came to their assistance. After a very tedious examination of witnesses, the coroner summed up the evidence, and gave the jury a very serious and explicit charge on the nature of the evidence of the transaction throughout, pointing out to them, in a clear and perspicuous manner, the different degrees of murder, and the difference wherein consisted murder from manslaughter, manslaughter from justifiable homicide, or from homicide occasioned by accident. Verdict, Justifiable homicide.

CUMBERLAND.

CUMBERLAND.

Married. At *Branthwaite*, the Rev. Henry Bragg, rector of Gosforth, to Miss Fox, of Branthwaite.

Died. At *Penrith*, John Wilkinson, Esq. formerly of Murrah.—At *Cockermouth*, Mrs. Susanna Baynes, third daughter of the late Robert Baynes, Esq.—At *Carlisle*, aged 50, Lieut. Fitchet, of the 73d foot, a native and freeman of Carlisle, to which he returned after an absence of many years about eighteen months ago. He had been in the army upwards of thirty years, and, besides his service in other climates, was engaged in the whole of the tedious war against Tippoo Saib, and particularly distinguished himself at the taking of Seringapatam.

DERBYSHIRE.

Married. At *Bakewell*, Henry Sykes, Esq. of Melton, to Miss Thompson, daughter of the late B. B. Thompson, Esq. of Hull.

DEVONSHIRE.

After the late meeting of the gentlemen of this county, at the Castle of Exeter, for the purpose of addressing his Majesty on the present posture of public affairs, a very numerous and respectable body adjourned to the Hotel in Exeter, to concert measures for the establishment of an Institution in that city, to be styled, "The West of England Infirmary, for curing Diseases of the Eye only." A subscription was opened for this purpose, when upwards of two hundred pounds was immediately subscribed by the gentlemen present; and it was agreed, that there should be a meeting of the subscribers on the 2d of September, for electing a committee to carry this desirable measure into effect.

Married. At *Pinho*, William Farrant, Esq. of the 38th foot, son of the late John Farrant, Esq. of Culmpyne-house, in Somerset, to Miss Sarah Ellard, of Exeter.—At *Barnstaple*, Mr. Joseph Gimmer, of the Bank of England, to Miss Oram, daughter of John Wood Oram, Esq.—At *Stoke*, T. Haywood, Esq. of the Military Hospital, to Miss Johns, daughter of B. Johns, Esq.

Died. John Searle, Esq. of Lympstone: a gentleman possessed of the most amiable qualifications, and much distinguished in the neighbourhood for his benevolence and humanity.—The Rev. John Edwards, of Creddon. He was found drowned in a small arm of the sea near Arne, in Purbeck. From the orderly state in which his clothes were found by the water side, it is evident he intended to bathe, but had gone beyond his depth. He had left his home in a deranged state of mind some days before, and had eluded the diligent search of his friends.—At *Plymouth*, aged 63, William Swan, Esq. landing-surveyor of his Majesty's customs.—At *Exmouth*, aged 84, Mrs. Eliz. Chappell.

A boat-race for two silver cups, given by J. Templer, Esq. of Stover, near Teignmouth, which were to be sailed for on Tuesday, the 6th ult. induced the Rev. Mr. Buller, of Saltash, and Mr. Baker, of Plymouth, to become candidates for the first prize. Their two pleasure-boats, from 10 to 15 tons burden, accordingly started from Plymouth harbour on Monday morning. In Mr. Buller's boat were, Mr. Josias Thompson, of Plymouth, Mr. Foster, of Saltash, his apprentice, and Mr. Buller's boy. Mr. Baker's boat followed. They had proceeded as far as the Bolt Head, when they were overtaken by a most tremendous squall, accompanied with heavy rain, which lasted nearly half an hour. At this time Mr. Buller's boat was near two miles a-head, and from the thickness of the storm could not be discerned; but on its subsiding, being still invisible, Mr. Baker concluded that she had borne away for Salcombe, as the wind continued to blow hard, with a prodigious swell. After keeping the same course for half an hour, Mr. Baker determined to bear away also, and on nearing the shore, saw something like crab-pot marks, but did not particularly regard them, until a shriek was heard to proceed from thence, when Mr. Buller was seen with his head above water, supported by a topmast spar, which fortunately was in the boat when she went down. Every exertion was now used in saving Mr. B. who was almost gone, having been in that situation an hour and a half. On being taken on board, every means were used to restore him, which

which was at last effected. During this time, Mr. Foster's apprentice, and Mr. Buller's boy, were perceived at a little distance, holding by the ends of an oar; and on picking up the latter, the other, quite exhausted, lost his hold and sunk to the bottom. Every eye was now strained in looking out for Mr. Thompson and Mr. Foster, but without success; and after beating about for a considerable time, they regretfully left the melancholy scene, and arrived at Salcombe. Mr. Buller, when recovered, said that they had shipped a sea, and that Mr. Foster was in the little boat astern, casting off the painter, when another sea filled her, and she went down by the stern. Mr. B. recollects Mr. Thompson swimming upright, but a little under water, for some time after she sunk; he has left a widow with five children.

DURHAM.

Married. At *Lanchester*, Edward Searle, Esq. of Colchester, to Miss Greenwell, of Ford.

Died. At *Durham*, aged 40, Mrs. Spearman, wife of Charles Spearman, Esq. —At *Brancepeth*, aged 91, Mr. John Fenwick.—At *Bishop Wearmouth*, aged 20, Lieut. John Blacket Watson, of the Royal Marines, son of Mr. Ralph Watson, of the customs. This promising young man was second in command of the division of marines left on the Diamond rock when the French under Admiral Gantheaume captured it. The privations and fatigue he sustained on that station brought on a decline, which terminated in his premature death.—Aged 72, Mrs. Thane, widow of Lieut. Thane, of the royal navy.

ESSEX.

While excavating the extensive reservoir for the Colchester water-works in Balcon-lane, close to the town walls, the workmen fell in with some spacious Roman baths, and earthen pipes of a peculiar construction, for the letting in and out of the waters, with a quantity of Roman pottery ware, some of which appear to have been vessels for heating fluids, others that held wines, with specimens of various formed urns. What were taken up perfect, are in the possession of Mr. Dodd, the engineer; but we are sorry to state, the greater part was mutilated by the pickaxes of the workmen, as the ground in that part was of a very dense quality; and unfortunately the workmen being employed by contract, at so much per yard for excavating, had no disposition to spend the necessary time in digging out with care those rare specimens of antiquity; it is almost unnecessary to add, as it is known by every antiquarian, that Colchester was one of the most considerable and principal stations the Romans had when in this country.

Died. At *Colchester*, aged 79, Mrs. Seaber, relict of Wm. Seaber, Esq.—At *Chelmsford*, John Judd, Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace. This gentleman had directed by his will, and made it a particular request to his friends, that upon his decease, his body should be immediately dressed in the clothes he usually wore, and, in that state, deposited in his coffin. This desire has been strictly complied with, and the remains of Mr. Judd, instead of a shroud, are covered with his best suit of clothes; a blue coat, boots, and a hat, form part of the funeral apparel.—At *Langford Grove*, Nicholas Westcombe, Esq.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The attendance at the Gloucester Music Meeting was most respectable: and numerous beyond all former precedent. The collection at the cathedral amounted to 560l. 6s. 11d. The stewards nominated for the next Gloucester meeting are, the Dean of Gloucester, Rev. Mr. Lysons, Rev. Mr. Clutterbuck, Mr. Paul, Mr. Smith, Mr. Napier.

At the conference lately held at Bristol by the Methodists, there were about 240 preachers present from different parts of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Newfoundland, and the West Indies. The conference had been held by adjournment for sixteen days, during which 39 young men were publicly received into full connection, after having been engaged in the ministry four years, and 65 were admitted on trial as preachers. During the year upwards of

of 120 chapels have been erected, and nearly 800 persons added to the society.

Married. At *Bathwick*, George Bradshaw, Esq. of Clifton, to Miss Bethell, of Sydney-place, second daughter of the late George Bethell, Esq.—At *Bristol*, Richard Cartwright, Esq. of Shirehampton, to Miss Betten, daughter of the late Charles Betten, Esq. of Whitechurch, Herefordshire.—The Rev. John Herisman, of Wraxall, Somerset, to Miss Vaughan, daughter of Richard Vaughan, Esq.—At *Clifton*, Michael Hinton Castle, Esq. of Bristol, to Miss Susan Smith, grand-daughter of the late Francis Baisley, Esq. of Oporto.—Richard Morgan, Esq. of Birch Grove, Glamorganshire, Lieut. Colonel of the Royal Glamorgan Militia, to Miss Susan Maria Bush, eldest daughter of John Bush, Esq. of Burcot, Oxfordshire.—At *Stratton*, the Rev. John Croome, M.A. son of Richard Croome, Esq. of Cirencester, to Miss Ann Daubeny, second daughter of the Rev. James Daubeny, of Stratton.—At *Minchinhampton*, William Stafford, Esq. to Miss Niblett, only daughter of Richard P. Niblett, of Burleyhouse.

Died. At *Tewkesbury Park*, aged 64, John Wall, Esq. many years Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal South Gloucestershire Militia, and a Justice of the Peace for the counties of Gloucester and Worcester.—At *Bristol*, aged 47, Edmund Cobb, Hurry, Esq. banker, of Gosport, Hants, formerly of Yarmouth, in Norfolk. His remains were interred in the Unitarian burying-ground.—Richard Stratton, Esq. of College Green.—At *Clifton*, aged 58, William Hill, Esq. late of Measham, in Derbyshire.—At *Forthampton*, near Tewkesbury, aged 78, the Hon. James Yorke, Lord Bishop of Ely, Governor of Addenbrooke's Hospital, and Visitor of Jesus, St. Peter's, and St John's colleges, Cambridge. His Lordship was walking on the Terrace about seven o'clock the same evening in perfect health, after which he supped and retired to bed at the usual hour. He was the youngest son of the late Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, and uncle to the present Earl. His Lordship succeeded to the see of St. David's in 1774, was translated to Gloucester in 1779, and in 1781 to that of Ely, on the death of Dr. Edmund Keene. The uniform kindness and active benevolence which distinguished this venerable prelate through life, will cause his loss to be severely felt in every situation to which his influence extended. The Right Rev. Thomas Dampier, D.D. Bishop of Rochester, is appointed his successor. The see of Ely is worth full 6000l. per annum.—At *Stroud*, aged 64, the Rev. David Lloyd.—At *Westcott*, the Rev. Miles Comb, curate of that parish. He got up in the night, and had gone into the churchyard, where he was found dead in the morning, suspended on the gate by one arm. It is supposed he had slipped down the bank, and caught by the gate in the agonies of death. He had been for some time deranged in his intellects.—At his seat at *Totworth*, aged 69, F. Reynolds Moreton, Baron Ducie, Provost Marshal of Barbadoes. He was first married to Miss Purvis, daughter of T. Purvis, Esq. of Shepton Mallet, Somersetshire, by whom he has left two sons, Thomas, who succeeds him, and Francis, a Colonel in the army. His Lordship married, secondly, Miss Child, mother to the late Countess of Westmoreland, who survived her marriage but two years. The present Lord is married to Lady Francis Herbert, only daughter of the Earl of Carnarvon.—At *Cheltenham*, aged 34, Capt. G. Barrington Whinyates, of the Royal Navy.—Mrs. Taylor, wife of Lieut. Col. Taylor, of the half pay of the 4th regt. of foot.—At *Hambrook*, aged 81, Mr. Thomas Whitehead, formerly an eminent salt-refiner, of Bristol.—At *Kingstanley*, Hopton Merryck, Esq.—At *Westend*, James Hughes, Esq. solicitor, of Bristol.

HAMPSHIRE.

The long-projected plan of completing the inland navigation between the metropolis and the ports of Portsmouth and Southampton, by means of a junction of the Basingstoke canal with the river Itchen at Winchester, is now proceeding with every probability of success. The line (which is the same that was projected in 1796) commences at the Basingstoke wharf; so that the whole of that canal will now be navigable, and there will be ten miles less to form the junction than there would be by Alton and Farnham; besides that, the hill

to

to be tunnelled through is little more than a third part as wide as Ropley Hill.

Died. At *Portsmouth*, Alexander Farrer, Esq. a burgess of the corporation.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Married. At *Hereford*, Lewis Frazier, Esq. of the 15th regiment, to Miss C. St. George Williams, youngest daughter of John Williams, Esq. of Welcroft.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

A curious piece of antiquity has lately been discovered in the church-yard of Hemel Hempstead. In digging a vault for a young lady of the name of Warren, the sexton, when he had excavated the earth about four feet below the surface of the ground, struck his spade against something solid, which, upon inspection, he found to be a large wrought stone, which proved to be the lid of a coffin, and under it the coffin entire, which was afterwards taken up in perfect condition; but the bones contained therein, on being exposed to the air, crumbled to dust. On the lid of the coffin is an inscription, partly effaced by time, yet still sufficiently legible, decidedly to prove it contained the ashes of the celebrated Offa, king of the Mercians, who rebuilt the abbey of St. Alban's, and died in the eighth century. The coffin is about 6½ feet long, and contains a niche or resting-place for the head, and also a groove on each side for the arms, likewise for the legs; it is curiously carved, and altogether *unique* of the kind. The Curate of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Bingham, has deposited it in a house adjacent to the church-yard, where the curious are flocking daily and hourly to see it, on whom he levies a contribution of one shilling each, for such indulgence. The church was built in the seventh century. The Watling-street road runs within a mile of this place, and many Roman coins have lately been found in the vicinity, particularly while digging for the Grand Junction Canal.

Married. At *St. Alban's*, Richard Lydekker, Esq. late resident Naval Officer of the island of Martinique, to Miss Wolfe.—At *Walcern*, William Hamilton, Esq. of Guilford-street, to Miss Mary Gosling, third daughter of the late Wm. Gosling, Esq. of May-hall.—At *Ridge*, Henry Edgeworth Bicknell, Esq. of the Secretary's Office, Customs, to Miss Mary Arnold, eldest daughter of Charles Arnold, Esq. of Shenley-hall.—At *East Barnet*, J. Harrison, Esq. of Newgate-street, to Miss Eliz. Mary Timberlake, daughter of Henry Timberlake, Esq. Cordwainers'-hall, Southgate.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Died. At *Stibbington*, Mrs. Layng, wife of the Rev. W. W. Layng, vicar of St. Lawrence, and daughter of Mr. Bulmer, of the city of York.

KENT.

Married. At *Bromley*, Capt. Robert Welbank, of the East India Company's service, to Miss Sarah Rhodes, third daughter of Major Rhodes, Esq. of Oakley Farm.—At *Gravesend*, Mr. Walter Hmmphries, of Bishopsgate-street, to Miss Sarah Reynolds, of Billeter-square, only daughter of Sir Roger Reynolds, of Chatham.—At *Lewisham*, Thomas Downward, jun. Esq. of Liverpool, to Miss Sarah Shuter, eldest daughter of John Shuter, Esq. of Southwark.

Died. At *Groves*, Dame Mary Lynch, relict of the late Right Hon. Sir Wm. Lynch, K. B. envoy extraordinary at Turin, and eldest daughter of Edward Coke, Esq. of Canterbury.—At *Lewisham*, Gertrude Brand, Baroness Dacre, relict of Thomas Brand, Esq. of the Hoo, in Hertfordshire, who died in Feb. 1794. Her Ladyship succeeded her brother, the Hon. Charles Trevor Roper, the late Lord Dacre, in July 1794; and is now succeeded by her eldest son, the Hon. Thomas Brand, M. P. for Hertfordshire. No wife more sincerely regretted the loss of an affectionate husband than her Ladyship. When at Lewisham, she, every evening, unattended, visited his tomb, and shed tears to his memory. Her life was a continued scene of benevolence and charity; and her memory will long be cherished by the widow and the orphan.—At *Eastry*, aged 76,

76, after an indisposition that for some years had confined him chiefly to the circle of his own family, Mr. Thomas Petman, formerly steward to the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and much employed in the county in the valuation of estates. To those who employed him he fulfilled his engagements with the strictest honour and fidelity: to such as needed his assistance or advice, he was ready to give it to the utmost of his power; to the poor of the parish where he resided he was an uniform and constant friend; and he has left behind him a character for piety, integrity, and uprightness, that may have been equalled, but seldom or never excelled.—At *Brampton-place*, Bexley, Frederick Hendrick Van Hagen, Esq.

James Cumming, Esq. (p. 270) was a native of Sandwich, and one of the four sons of Mr. James Cumming, many years one of the lieutenants of Greenwich college. He went round the world with Commodore Byron, as first lieutenant of the Dolphin, in 1764-5; and is mentioned in that part of the narrative of the voyage which describes the Commodore's first interview with the Patagonians, in the following words, "I could not but smile at the astonishment which I saw expressed in his (Mr. C's.) countenance, upon perceiving himself, though six feet two inches high, become at once a pigmy among giants." Admiral Cumming, though never called into actual service, as such, supported through life, the character of a brave and able officer, and of a truly honest man.

LANCASHIRE.

At the late assizes at Lancaster, Charles Angus, of Liverpool, merchant, accused of the murder of Miss Margaret Burns, after a trial which lasted nineteen hours was acquitted. Twenty-five persons were indicted for being concerned in the late riots at Manchester, &c. The Attorney General stated, the business had occupied the serious consideration of government, and that in consequence of the particular circumstances, under which the disturbances originated, it had been determined not to indict any of them capitally, there being no doubt of their being misguided men, and not aware of the consequences of their conduct. Ten of the prisoners were acquitted, and the prosecutions were given up, on seven other cases, on account of favourable circumstances: eighteen were found guilty and sentenced to three, six, nine, or twelve months confinement, according to the extent of their criminality, and one for two years for setting fire to Rochdale prison. An indictment was presented against Joseph Hanson, Esq. of Manchester (one of the late candidates for the borough of Preston, in Lancashire), for a misdemeanor, in encouraging the weavers, who lately assembled in a large body at Manchester. No previous complaint had been openly preferred against Mr. Hanson, but, he having accidentally heard that such a bill had been found, immediately went over to Lancaster, and appeared in court on Saturday se'nnight, and requested, in strong terms, that his trial might take place immediately; as, if that was not the case, he should labour under a calumny for six months to come. This request, the judge informed him, could not be complied with, without the consent of the prosecutors (which they refused), but the judge expressed a hope, that Mr. Hanson's so early appearance in court, and his readiness to meet the charge, would have the effect of doing away all prejudice, if any had been excited against him. Mr. Hanson then gave bail to answer the indictment. No process had issued to compel his appearance.

Married. At *Bolton*, the Rev. Henry Hathwell, rector of Clayton, in Sussex, to Miss Carlile.—At *Manchester*, John Postles, Esq. of Altringham, to Mrs. Martin, widow of Mr. W. Martin, linen merchant. John Railton, Esq. to Miss Mary Withington, only daughter of Jeremiah Withington, Esq. of Parkfield. Thomas Fenton, Esq. of Stoke Lodge, near Newcastle-under Lyne, to Miss Ann Spode, sister of Josiah Spode, Esq. of the Mount, near Stoke upon Trent. Thomas Darwell, Esq. to Miss Kearsley.—At *Rochdale*, John Dancer Niblett, Esq. of Haresfield-court, Gloucestershire, to Miss Drake, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Drake, D. D. vicar of Rochdale.

Died. At *Manchester*, Mr. John Crawshaw, a partner, in the house of Gregson,

Gregson, Lett, and Co. Rev. John Darbey, M.A. second master of the Free Grammar school, and perpetual curate of Gorton. He was formerly of Corpus Christi college, Oxford, M. A. 1762, and on the late Mr. Lawson's appointment to the place of head master of Manchester school, was nominated his successor by Dr. Randolph, President of Corpus Christi college. On account of his precarious state of health and advanced age, he declined the office of head master, which was due to him for his long and eminent services, as well as by the statutes of the said school.—At *Liverpool*, aged 20, Miss Margaret Rawson, fourth daughter of Mr. A. Rawson, after enduring with unshaken fortitude the gradual approach of an inevitable dissolution. The practice of the moral virtues, and the cultivation of her mind, were her sole employment, and the delicacy of a weak constitution could not overcome her enthusiastic ardour for science. Her natural and acquired abilities, which have so often delighted her friends, were only surpassed by her unassuming modesty and amiable disposition.—At *Clifton*, aged 78, Matthew Fletcher, Esq. one of his Majesty's justices of the peace.—At *Fazackerly*, Richard Higgenson, Esq. —At *Douglas*, in the Isle of Man, aged 67, Robert Heywood, Esq.—At *Blackpool*, aged 106, Jemima Wilkinson. She retained her senses and was able to walk without assistance within a few hours of her death.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

Married. At *Shawell*, John Floyd, Esq. of Swinford, to Miss Compton, of Shawell.

Died. At the George Inn, in Bosworth, aged 34, Mr. George Ward, Printer and Stationer, of Hinckley. The death of this young man affords a striking instance of the uncertainty of human life. He went to the Licence meeting, at Bosworth, in the morning, in perfect health: after dinner he left the company, with whom he had dined, to call on a friend or two in the town, it is supposed that on his return, finding himself unwell, he retired into the garden, for when enquiries were made after him in the evening he was found dead. He was an industrious honest tradesman and an intelligent well-informed man. For several years he acted as clerk to the magistrates at Hinckley, and was much respected by them. It may with truth be said, that by his death the community hath sustained a loss.—At *Hinckley*, aged 70, William Brown, Esq: a well known firm adherent to the principles of our constitution, both in church and state, and highly esteemed and deservedly looked up to as a public man by his neighbourhood. By his will he has devised 500l. to be paid to the Governors of the General Infirmary, at Leicester, in aid of that excellent institution.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

Died. At *Honington*, near Grantham, aged 89, Mr. Samuel North, formerly of Lyston.—At *Caistor*, aged 90, Mr. F. Smith, formerly a farmer at Thornton-le-Moor.—At *Barton upon Humber*, aged 59, Joseph Marris, Esq. formerly of Bawtry.—At *Horncastle*, Mr. Harrison. He has left property amounting to upwards of 7000l. all acquired by jobbing in pigs.

NORFOLK.

Married. Edward Symonds Ommaney, Esq. of Yarmouth, to Miss Henrietta Maria Lacon, second daughter of Sir Edmund Lacon, of the same place.

Died. At *Beddingham*, George Stone, Esq. He served the office of high sheriff in 1793.—At *Neatished*, aged 68, John Harcourt, Esq.—At *Norwich*, aged 49, after a most painful and protracted illness, which he bore with dignified patience, Richard Lubbock, M. D. who had for many years possessed the public confidence to an unexampled degree, and in extensive usefulness, in skilful, liberal, and humane practice, had few equals. He was a native of Norwich, and received the early and classical part of his education, at the Free-school of this city, under the late Rev. G. W. Lemon. (author of the English Derivative Dictionary and other works of literature.) His medical education commenced with Mr. Rigby, under whom he was one of the first pupils

pupils who attended the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, after which he studied several years at Edinburgh, where he obtained his medical degree, in 1784, with great credit, having distinguished himself by his Thesis, "De Principio sorbile," on which he delivered some ingenious and original speculations which excited considerable notice from the philosophical chemists of the day. On his return to his native city, his introduction to practice was almost immediate, and from its earliest period to the moment of his being arrested by disease, he was unremittingly engaged in it; time and talent have perhaps in no instance been more uniformly, more constantly, or more unceasingly directed to the objects of his profession. On entering upon it he adopted some medical opinions which were then thought to be peculiar to himself, they were however convictions in his mind, he conscientiously acted upon them, and his practice, it cannot be denied, has been justifyingly successful. The Thesis, before alluded to, was his only literary production, which appeared as a separate publication, but he wrote several papers in a periodical journal, an elaborate one on *Diabetes*, a striking and well written case of *Catalepsy*, and an essay on *Apoplexy*: the latter signed Pyrrhus, will not soon be forgotten by medical readers. He also wrote a Memorial on Vaccination, in 1805, when an attempt was made to extend its benefits to the lower classes in his native city. It would be injustice not to add that his moral character was without a stain, and his private and domestic virtues most estimable. He married in 1787, and has left a widow and eight children.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Married. The Rev. David Wauchop, rector of Warkton, to Mary, eldest daughter of the late Sir William Dick, of Prestonfield, Bart.

Died. At *Northampton*, Mrs. Ann Beet, relict of the late Thomas Beet, Esq. of Great Houghton.—At *Isham*, aged 75, Mr. William Smith, paper manufacturer.—At *Kettering*, aged 81, Mrs. Elizabeth Collis, relict of Mr. Thomas Collis, manufacturer.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

At the last general meeting of the subscribers to the Newcastle charity for the relief of poor married women lying in at their own houses, it appeared from the books of the Treasurer, that since the commencement of the Institution, 5581 poor women have received the benefit of the charity; that between the 1st of January, 1807, and the 1st of January, 1808, 104 poor women were delivered, and 106 children born, of whom 60 were males and 46 females: that of the women none have died; of the children 2 boys and 4 girls had died during the month; and that a ballance of 60l. was then in the hands of the treasurer.

Died. At *Bedlington Furnace*, aged 98, Serjeant William M'Anglish. He was born in the British army, and served several campaigns with it in Germany; having received an honourable discharge, on account of his wounds, he entered into the employment of his late master, Mr. Hawks, where he continued nearly half a century, chearfully discharging the duties of a faithful, honest, and grateful servant.—At *Berwick*, aged 80, Mr. Andrew Gillespie. This naval veteran had his skull fractured and lost an arm in the engagement, off Minorca, under the unfortunate Admiral Byng, in 1756.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

Died. At *Chilwell*, aged 51, Thomas Charlton, Esq. late lieutenant-colonel of the Nottinghamshire militia, major in Lord Middleton's corps of Wollaton volunteers, and one of his Majesty's justice of the peace for this county.

OXFORDSHIRE.

The Rev. Thomas Bowerbank, M. A. Michel's Fellow of Queen's college, is instituted by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln to the rectory of Puttenham in Herefordshire, vacant by the death of the Rev. George Smith.

Died. At *Thame*, aged 77, Richard Smith, Esq. many years one of his Majesty's justices of the peace and deputy-lieutenant for the county of Bucks.—At *Woodperry*, aged 73, Mr. William Lay, who had been cook of Brazen-nose college almost fifty years. He was apparently well in the morning, and after making an hearty breakfast took a walk into an adjoining field, where he

was soon after found quite dead.—At *Holywell*, aged 65, Samuel Wilson Bishop, Esq.—At *Watlington*, aged 87, Mrs. Stringer.

SHROPSHIRE.

Died. At *Shrewsbury*, aged 74, Mrs. Mercy Blakeway, eldest daughter of the late John Brickdale, Esq. of Knowle, in Somersetshire, and relict of the Rev. Edward Blakeway, formerly rector of Felton, in Gloucestershire, vicar of Neen-Savage, Salop, and minister of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury.—At the *Nursery*, near Shrewsbury, aged 68, John Dovaston, Esq. He was the son of humble though respectable parents, who lived on their small estate at West Felton, and was taught to read by an old woman of the village, which was the whole of his education, the acquirements which he possessed in so eminent a degree being entirely his own acquisition. Though there was hardly any science of which he had not some knowledge, his attentions were principally directed to antiquities, natural philosophy, music, and mechanics. He has left a large collection of MSS. historical observations relating to Shropshire and the Welch borders, on Druidical relics and Stoneheuge, tracing many traditional vulgar errors from the remote ages of superstition. He had also fabricated for himself many musical instruments, particularly an organ on a new principle, and a complete philosophical apparatus, containing, among other curious articles, a large reflecting telescope, a solar microscope, an electrical machine on the plan of Dr. Franklin, and just before his death had projected an orrery to shew the satellites on a new method. He was fond of planting, and had in a manner cloathed the country round him with fruit and forest trees. It was from attachment to this pursuit that he named his little villa, which is laid out with much taste and elegance, "the Nursery." He was well versed in the Hebrew, Anglo-Saxon, British, and Latin languages, and had some knowledge of Greek. His reading was very extensive and his application intense. It is much to be regretted that he has given direction in his will that none of his works shall be published, but his library is always open for the inspection of the curious, and any information from his MSS. at their service. Though remarkable for plainness of dress, his person always appeared dignified, his mind was vigorous and his memory retentive, and both remained unimpaired to the last hour of his life. He has left one son lately called to the bar from the University of Oxford.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

At the late assizes at Wells, Duncan Campbell, Esq. (p. 273) was tried for manslaughter, and being found *guilty*, was sentenced to pay a fine of 5*l.* to the king, and imprisoned in the county prison for three calendar months.

Married. At *Bath*, George Bradshaw, Esq. of Clifton, to Miss Bethell, of Sydney-place, second daughter of the late George Bethell, Esq.—At *Kelmington*, the Rev. Samuel Sorrell, of Wells, to Miss Harriot Digby, daughter of the late Dean of Durham.—At *Monckton*, Philip John Ducarel, Esq. of Walford house, to Lucy, youngest daughter of the late Rev. George Crussman, LL.D.—At *White Lackington*, Mr. Rawlings, of Frome, clothier, to Miss Charlotte Bennett, second daughter of Mr. Bennett, of Hermitage.

Died. At *Bath*, aged 88, Charles Pye, Esq. late of Walford, in Berkshire.—At *Froxfield*, aged 65, the Rev. Clement Cruttwell: a gentleman whose various literary performances, for labour, extent, and utility, have rarely been equalled, and when regarded as the productions of an unassisted valetudinarian, have perhaps never been surpassed. Mr. C. first appeared as an author in his edition of *Bishop Wilson's Bible and Works*, to which he has prefixed a life; and in the splendid edition of the bible, he has inserted collations from the various texts; an employment which first directed his thoughts to that most laborious undertaking, his "Concordance of Parallel Texts of Scripture;" a work which, according to the usual computation of time and assiduity, would be sufficient to occupy the life of an ordinary man; and when it is considered that he printed it in his own house, and corrected the press as he proceeded, some idea may be formed of his industry and perseverance. To the high merits of this performance, as a most accurate compilation, the clerical profession will readily subscribe; and the just and public encomium of the Bishop of Lincoln has stamped it with its due value. Scarcely had he recovered from a severe illness, which his

his incessant application had produced, and which obliged him to have recourse to the baths of St. Amand, in Flanders, when he projected the scheme of his "*Universal Gazetteer*;" in the execution of which he spent ten years of unwearied diligence; the sale of the first edition sufficiently proved the favourable idea in which it was regarded by the public, and he had just gone through the laborious office of editing a second edition, comprising 30,000 new articles, when, on the road to his native town, Wokingham, in Berkshire, (of which he was an alderman) he was arrested by a sudden illness, which terminated fatally before medical assistance could be procured. Warm, gentle, and sincere in his private character, Mr. C. had conciliated the esteem and affection of a numerous circle of friends: secluded, indeed, of late years, by his ill state of health, his society had been principally confined to his more immediate connexions; to them he was most affectionally attached, and exhibited in all his social relations, the kindest and most benevolent heart, by them he is deeply and sincerely regretted; and they feel a melancholy satisfaction, while recording the loss they have sustained, in offering this humble tribute to his talents and his virtues.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Married. At *Tipton*, Samuel Whitfield Dankes, Esq. to Miss Hannah Smith, third daughter of Thomas Smith, Esq. of Tibbington-house.

Died. At *Abbots Bromley*, aged 63, the Rev. John Bennett, late minister of Marchington and Newborough.—At *Handsworth*, John Hodges, Esq. a partner in the house of Matthew Bolton, Esq. and Co. of the Soho manufactory.—At *Newcastle-under Lyne*, aged 73. Mrs. Caird, relict of the late James Caird, Esq.

SUFFOLK.

Thomas Holmes, Esq. Attorney at Law, is chosen Town Clerk of Bury, St. Edmunds, in the room of Thomas Dickinson, Esq. resigned.

Married. At *Bury*, Thomas Weldon, Esq. of Barnard-castle, to Miss Mary Hanby, daughter of Joshua Hanby, Esq. of Eastwood-hall, Yorkshire.

Died. At *Rendlesham-house*, aged 47, the Right Hon. Peter Isaac Thellusson, Baron Rendlesham. While riding out with a party, he fell from his horse, and instantly expired.—At *Bury St. Edmunds*, aged 44, William Hamilton, Esq. Physician, author of "Observations on the preparation and utility of the *Digitalis purpurea*," and some other medical tracts.—Mrs. Cole, of *Wickham-market*, relict of the Rev. Denny Cole, of Pettistree.—At *Tattingstone-place*, aged 88, Thomas White, Esq. in whom the poor have lost an active and benevolent friend. He served the office of High Sheriff for the county in 1749 and was again nominated to that office in 1794.

SURREY.

Married. At *Lambeth*, Peter Power, Esq. of Lime-street, to Miss Marianne Havard, daughter of William Havard, Esq. of South Lambeth.

Died. At *Richmond*, Mrs. Denn, widow of the late James Denn, Esq. and mother to the Right Hon. Lady Beauchamp.—At *Lower Tooting*, Philip Gidley King, Captain in the Royal Navy, and late Governor of New South Wales.—At *Wandsworth*, aged 59, William Mercer, Esq.—At *Barnes-common*, aged 74, Bernard Holbrooke, Esq. of Lambeth. He was of a very respectable family in Lancashire, and having early in life entered into the army, was a Lieutenant in the 97 regiment of Infantry at the siege of Bellisle in 1761. His regiment being reduced at the peace in 1763, he was placed upon half pay, in which situation he remained till his death, and was one of the very few survivors of that memorable campaign.

SUSSEX.

Married. At *Eastbourne*, L. K. Williams, Esq. Captain in the Royal Garrison battalion, to Miss Thomas, of Eastbourne.—At *Westham*, after an uninterrupted courtship of more than twenty years, the Rev. John Preston, Curate of that parish, to Miss Ann Bristow aged 74.

Died. Suddenly, at *Brighton*, after taking a ride, Sir G. Paunceford, Bart.

of

of Russell-square, London. The body of the deceased was opened, when the cause of his dissolution became apparent in a cancer, which had destroyed part of his stomach.—At *Worthing*, Lady William Russell, daughter of the late and sister to the present Earl of Jersey. Her Ladyship was married at the age of 18, and died in her 37th year, leaving a young and beautiful family.—At *Rye*, aged, 66, Mrs. Watson, widow of the late N. C. Watson, Esq.—At *Horsham*, Mrs. Agnes Aldrich, wife of Charles Aldrich, Esq. Captain in the East Middlesex Militia, and sister of the late Lord Wallscourt.

WARWICKSHIRE.

Died. aged 47, Mr. William Bellamy, of Harcley-house. He was an affectionate husband, father and brother, a kind master to his domestics and husbandmen, a peaceable and hospitable neighbour; inflexibly just in his dealings, frank in his disposition, and largely endowed with that independence of spirit, which characterized the old yeomanry of England. This tribute is paid to his memory, by one who knew his real merit, and who, in his death has to lament the loss of a truly respectable parishioner, and a very useful member of the community.

WILTSHIRE.

Married. At East Knoyle, Sir William George Parker, Bart. of the Royal Navy, to Miss Elizabeth Still, third daughter of J. C. Still, Esq. At *Harnham*, the Rev. M. March, rector of Brinkworth, to Miss Brodie of Winterslow. At *Chippenham*, lieut. J. C. Bagnell, of the Royal Marines, to Miss Ashe, daughter of the late Rev. Samuel Ashe, rector of Langley Burrell. At *Salisbury*, Edward Hinxman, Esq. of Little Durnford, to Miss Delitia Ekins youngest daughter of the Dean of Salisbury

Died. The Rev. Mr. Lloyd, Vicar of Stapleford. While riding out near the Hay in Brecknockshire, he was thrown from his horse, and so much hurt, that he expired immediately.—Mr. Whitfield, a member of the body corporate of Devizes.—Mrs. Brindley, wife of the Rev. Henry Brindley, of Lacock.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Died. At *Hagley*, aged 84, the Right Hon. William Henry Lord Lyttleton. He is succeeded by his eldest son the Hon. George Fulke Lyttleton.—At *Arley-hall*, aged 72, Samuel Glover, Esq. of Abercarne, Monmouthshire.—At *Droitwich*, Mrs. Edwards, wife of John Edwards, Esq. of the Royal Artillery.

YORKSHIRE.

Married. At *Bramham*, Grosvenor Perfect, Esq. of Boston, near Thorparch, to Miss Mary Assheton, daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Richard Assheton, Rector of Middleton and Warden of Christ College, Manchester.—At *Bridlington*, the Rev. Montague Heblethwayte, B. D. Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, perpetual Curate of Flambro', in this county, and Vicar of Sunning-hill, Berks, to Miss Mary Ann Young, daughter of the late Mr. John Young, of Scarborough.—At *Sandall*, the Rev. Dr. Zouch, Prebendary of Durham, to Miss Brooke, sister of William Brooke, Esq. of Wakefield.—Mr. Thomas Calvert, of Leeds, to Miss Iredale, only daughter of the late Dr. Iredale, of Morton near Bradford.

Died. At *York*, aged 76, Mrs. Sarah Barry, relict of Henry Barry, Esq. late of Hull.—At *Cottingham*, near Hull, the Rev. Thomas Thirlwell, Vicar of that parish.—At *Easington*, in Holderness, aged 84, Mr. Robert Pattison.—At *Harrowgate*, the Rev. Thomas Spencer, second Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, B. A. (1755) and Vicar of Over, in that county.—Aged 85, Stephen Todd, Esq. of Wither-hall, near Leeds, and of Leadenhall-street, London; father of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, a man of inflexible integrity; generous without ostentation; kind, benevolent, courteous, and social.—At *Knaresborough*, aged 48, Christopher Walton, Esq.—At *Leeds*, Mr. Kemp, partner of the house of Sanderson and Co. linendrapers. He dropped down dead in the act of leaving his own house on an intended journey to Manchester.—Aged 57, Mr. Robert Bramley, one of the Common Council of that Borough.

William

WALES.

William Davies, Esq. of Penlan, barrister at law, is elected recorder of the borough of Kidwelly, in the room of William Phillips, Esq. deceased.

The Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society met lately at the White Hart Inn, in Narberth, to award premiums for the best bulls, heifers, sheep and pigs bred in the county, the Rev. Thomas Bateman, in the chair. This excellent institution has greatly contributed to improve the native breed of cattle, &c. and from the spirited and liberal manner in which it is supported and conducted, much may yet be expected from it. The following premiums were awarded: To Mr. Davies, of Bangor, for the best bull bred in the hundreds of Castlemartin and Roose, 5l. 5s. To Mr. Powell, of Marledge, for the best two-year old do. 4l. 4s. To the Right Hon. Lord Cawdor, for the best two-years old heifer, 3l. 3s.; and also 3l. 3s. for the best three years old do. To John Bateman, Esq. for the best yearling bull, bred in the hundreds of Narberth, Dungleddy, Dewsland, Kemes, and Kilgarran, 5l. 5s. To Messrs. Evans and Eaton, for the best two years old heifer bred in the same district, 3l. 3s. and to Mr. Thomas Howells, of Lampecer Velfrey, for the best three year old do. 3l. 3s. 3l. 3s. for the best yearling ram bred in Pembrokeshire: 1l. 11s. 6d. for the best two years old do.: 1l. 1s. for the second best do.: 2l. 2s. for the best pen of yearling ewes, and 1l. 11s. 6d. for the best of two year old do. to Lord Cawdor: 1l. 1s. for the second best pen of yearling ewes, and 1l. 1s. for the second best pen of do. to Messrs. Evans and Eaton: 1l. 11s. 6d. for the best boar pig, under twelve months old, to William Francis, Esq. and the like sum for the best sow pig, to Mr. Thomas, of Whitley.

Died.—At *Swansea*, aged 76, David Propert, Esq. As a friend he was sincere and unshaken, in his neighbourhood he was charitaole without ostentation, and never so happy as when relieving the distresses of the poor wherever he went, by constantly embracing every opportunity that offered, both of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked.

SCOTLAND.

Robert Blair, of Avontown, Esq. advocate, has received his Majesty's warrant appointing him Lord President of the College of Justice, in the room of Hay Campbell, Esq. resigned. His Majesty's warrant respecting the division of *the court* has also been received, and is as follows: *First Chamber*, (to sit in the former court room) Lord President Blair, Lords Dunsinan—Craig—Armadale—Bannatyne—Balmutto—Hermand, and Woodhouselee. *Second Chamber*, (to sit in the new court room) Lord Justice Clerk, Lords Polkemmet—Glenlee—Meadowbank—Cullen—Robertson, & Newton.

The first stone of a new prison for the county of Edinburgh, was laid on the 8th of Sept. by the Hon. William Maule, M. P. Grand Master Mason elect of Scotland, with the usual ceremonies. This erection, which has long been wanted, is to be on a scale worthy of the metropolis; the whole of the houses between Forrester's Wynd and Leberton's Wynd being purchased, and about to be taken down, to make room for it. The plan is admirably calculated for the comfort and security of the prisoners, and the preservation of their morals, as the several classes will be kept entirely separate from each other, which could not be done in the former goal. Another set of public buildings are also begun for the farther accommodation of the courts of justice, a new Exchequer, and a building for the reception of the magnificent library of the Society of Advocates. It runs westward from the Parliament House, and will form a most magnificent pile of Grecian architecture.

Married. At *Dundee*, William Galloway, Esq. of Edinburgh, to Miss Anna, Maria Davenport, only daughter of the late William Davenport Esq. of Londonderry.—the Rev. David Dickson, one of the ministers of St. Cuthbert's, to Miss Jobson, daughter of James Jobson, Esq.—At *Fornighty*, Captain D. Macpherson, of the 78 regt. to Miss B. Campbell, eldest daughter of Capt. Campbell, of the Inverness-shire Militia.—At *Ardgowan*, John Cunningham, Esq. son of Sir William Cunningham, of Robertland to Miss Janet Lucretia Wallace, daughter of the late John Wallace, Esq. of Kelsie.—At *Douglas Castle*, the seat of Sir W. Douglas, Adam Thomson, Esq. of Knockbreck, to Miss M'Haffie.

Died.

Died. At *Merchieston Bank*, aged 86, John Home, Esq. author of the tragedy of Douglas.—At *Fotheringham*, aged 75, the Rev. Robert Small, D. D. and F. R. S. Edin. one of ministers of Dundee.—At *St. Andrews*, in the 45 year of his his ministry, aged 67, the Rev. John Adamson, senior minister of that city, and Professor of civil History, in the university of St. Andrews.—At *Gosford*, aged 85, the Right Hon. Francis Charteris Wemyss, Earl of Wemyss.—At *Hopetown house*, the Right Hon. Lady Jemima Johnstone Hope, wife of Capt. George J. Hope, of the Royal Navy.—At *Dunse-castle*, Mrs. Janet Erskine, relict of Robert Hay, Esq. of Drumelzier.—At *Eastfield*, the Rev. James Rhind, minister of Whitburn.—At *Otter House*, Argyleshire, on the 27th of August, Anne, and on Thursday, the 1st of September, Jane Eliza, the daughters of Captain Duncan Campbell; and, on the same day, Elliot, his youngest son.—At *Greenock*, Alexander M'Kinlay Esq. late of the customs.—At *Randolph field*, near Stirling, Major Thomas Spark, late of the East India Company's service.—At *Scotstown*, Miss Campbell Oswald, sixth daughter of George Oswald of Auchincruive Esq.—At *Spital house*, Berwickshire, aged 70, Blake Stow Lundie, Esq.—At *Forganhall*, aged 64, William Glen, Esq. He was an affectionate father, and steady friend, and is sincerely regretted by all who knew him.—At *Leith*, Robert Strong, Esq. merchant.—At *Bengal*, aged 40, Charles Campbell, Esq. (second son of the late Mr. James Campbell, of Glasgow,) surgeon and botanist to the Hon. East India Company's establishment in the island of Sumatra.—At *Rio de Janiero*, aged 76, his Excellency General John Forbes, of Skellater, in the county of Aberdeen. He was the senior general officer of the Portuguese army, general and governor of Rio de Janiero, a counsellor of war, general of cavalry, and knight grandcroix of the illustrious order of Avis in Portugal, and Carlos III. in Spain. This much respected veteran, was a Lieutenant at the siege of Maestricht in 1748, and served in all the following campaigns, as well as in the seven years war, at the conclusion of which he entered into the service of Portugal, where he contributed much to the establishing the tactics of Frederick the Great, (then introduced into most of the armies of Europe) into the Portuguese army under the immediate protection and friendship of Marshal Count la Lippe. During a period of near fifty years he distinguished himself in that country by his activity, his zeal, and his incorruptible integrity, to which last circumstance it was perhaps owing that he enjoyed uninterruptedly the favour of four successive sovereigns. The tears and unfeigned sorrow of the reiguing Prince, were the most affecting testimonials of his attachment to the General, as the public, and sincere regrets of the people, were of his real worth. He was indeed a virtuous, and an honourable man. As a soldier he possessed undaunted courage, indefatigable activity, promptitude and decision. He commanded with reputation the Portuguese army in Rousillon, at the commencement of the revolutionary war, and he will hereafter be classed among those of our countrymen, who have added to the respectability of the national character among foreigners.

IRELAND.

Married. At *Dublin*, Major L'Estrange, of the Kings County militia, to Miss Jane Jackson, second daughter of the late colonel Jackson, of Prospect House, Mayo.—At *Glennagary*, near Dublin, T. Flond, Esq. of Exeter to Miss Moore, daughter of Ross Moore, Esq. of Carlingford.—At *Toome*, Limerick, Vere Dawson Hunt, Esq. of Cappagh, Tipperary, to Miss Holmes, daughter of the late Philip Holmes, Esq. of Millbrook.—At *Glanmire*, Cork, James Casey, Esq. of Blossom Grove, to Miss Chatterton, daughter of the late Thomas Chatterton, Esq.—Capt J. B. Irwin, assistant Quarter master General of the Forces in Ireland, eldest son of Eyles Irwin, Esq. late of Bellevue, in the county of Fermanagh, to Miss Lucy Chitwood, daughter of the Rev. John Chitwood, of Glanmine.

Died. At *Armagh*, Alexander Campbell, Esq. of the 21st Foot. In June 1807, a dispute at the mess with Captain Boyd of the same regiment, led to a duel, in which the latter fell.—Major Campbell immediately made his escape from Ireland, and lived some months at Chelsea under a borrowed name, but his mind at length became so uneasy, that he determined to surrender himself to trial, be the result what it might. At the last assizes at Armagh, he

was

was found guilty, and sentence of death passed upon him, but in consequence of the recommendatory memorials which were addressed to the Lord Lieutenant in his behalf, execution was stayed untill his Majesty's pleasure was known. The entire documents, with the Judges notes, were accordingly sent to England, and laid before his Majesty, when it appearing to be a case to which the royal mercy could not be extended, the law was permitted to take its course—On the 24th of August, at 10 o' clock, having finished his devotions in the prison, he was led out for execution, and the moment he made his appearance, all the Guards took off their caps, and he, in return, saluted them, and spoke a few words in the Erse language to the soldiers, which was understood to be desiring them to pray for him. He asked a few moments longer; he was told to make his own time. He again repeated a fervent prayer for his wife and family—drew down the cap over his face—clenched his hands firm in each other, and then was removed from this world to eternity. He struggled a short time; and, after hanging 35 minutes, was cut down, and his body given to his friends. The unfortunate catastrophe which produced such an awful result to Major Campbell, it is to be hoped, will not fail to leave a lesson to mankind of salutary influence.—Both of the parties were gentlemen, eminent in their profession, of high character and honour, who had long lived on terms of mutual friendship and esteem. The unfortunate irritation of a moment at once deprived society of one of the best of men, and left a widow and infant family to mourn their irreparable loss. Retribution of the most awful kind has fallen to the lot of the other; and his amiable wife and infant family are also involved in all the distress which the human mind can conceive. Major Campbell has left a widow and five children, and Captain Boyd, who fell by his hand, had a wife and seven; sixteen victims immolated at the bloody tribunal of False honour!—At *Bray*, in the county of Wicklow (the seat of his nephew, General Cockburn) aged 76, Andrew Caldwell, Esq. of Rutland square, Dublin. He was the eldest son of Charles Caldwell, Esq. an eminent solicitor and was educated at the University of Glasgow, from whence he removed to London; and after a residence of about five years in the Temple, returned to Dublin, where he was admitted to the bar in 1760; but inheriting a good estate, he never paid much attention to the profession of the Law, and for many years past had relinquished the practice. Soon after the death of his father he obtained a seat in the Irish House of Commons, which he filled for several sessions, and when the Royal Irish Academy was instituted, he was associated with that learned body. He was also for many years an active member of the Dublin Society, particularly in the department of the fine arts, for many of which he had an excellent taste. This, with his literary and studious disposition, always afforded him sufficient employment; nor was he content with cold admiration, but was a liberal patron of all those who excelled in any of the various branches of art. He had studied Architecture, with particular attention, and about 1790, published anonymously some very judicious observations on the public buildings of Dublin, and on some edifices which were at that time in contemplation, and about to be erected in that city at the expence of the state. The only other known production of his pen that has been published, is a very curious "Account of the "extraordinary escape of James Stewart, Esq. (commonly called *Athenian* "*Stewart*) from being put to death by some Turks in whose company he was "travelling;" the substance of which had been communicated to Mr. C. by the Bishop of Dromore, as related to his Lordship by Mr. Stewart himself. Of this narrative which was printed at London, in 1804, only a few copies were struck off for the use of the writer's friends, and it is believed that not more than a dozen were distributed in this country. To painting he was much devoted, and with a view to the gratification of that passion, he visited the collections in the Netherlands and at Dusseldorf. His travels however did not extend to Italy, and his motive for denying himself that indulgence does him great honour—it was from the fear of exciting the anxiety of a tender mother by so long an absence as the performance of such a journey would require. On her death he would gladly have gratified his anxious desire of visiting Italy, but the French revolution and its dreadful consequences rendering the Continent a scene of danger to travellers, he was induced to relinquish his idea of visiting

visiting the collections of France and Rome. Mr Caldwell's love of Literature and the arts naturally led him to collect an ample library, which contains many curious articles, and is particularly rich in botany and natural history. He also possessed a collection of select and valuable drawings and paintings, in addition to which the late Alexander Mangin, Esq. bequeathed to him an inestimable collection of prints by all the great masters, to the forming of which above thirty years of his life had been devoted. It would be great injustice to this worthy and amiable man not to add, that his manners were gentle and pleasing, and that as his benevolence and other virtues made him generally respected through life, so his urbanity, various knowledge, and cultivated taste, extremely endeared him to the circle of his friends by whom he will be long and deeply regretted.

FOREIGN OCCURRENCES.

Deaths. At *Pancker*, in Holstein, aged 47, the Prince of Hessenstein. The whole of his property, estimated at a million and a half of rix dollars, is bequeathed to the Landgrave Charles, of Hesse Cassel.—At *Wilna*, aged 55, Count Lodovick Tyskewics, formerly Grand Marshal of Lithuania.—At *Dusseldorf*, Edmund Baron de Harold, General in the Bavarian service. This gentleman was of a very old and respectable family in the south of Ireland.—At *Bencoolen*, the Hon. Charles Murray, son of the late Bishop of St. David's, and nephew of the Duke of Athol, and of the late Lord Charles Ansley. He fell a sacrifice to the great exertions he used in the defence of Mr. Parr, Governor of Bencoolen, who was massacred by the Malays in March last. He was a young man universally admired and esteemed.—On the 13th of July, at *Port Antonio*, in Jamaica, of the yellow fever, General Villettes, who was seized with this disorder during the performance of a military tour. His remains were interred on the 23d of July with great military honours. His nephew and aid-de-Camp, Captain Turrettin, also fell a sacrifice to this fatal complaint, on the 18th of the same month.—In an engagement near *Roleia*, in Portugal, on the 17th August, the Hon. George Augustus Frederick Lake, Lieut. Colonel of the 29th foot. He was the second son of the late Lord Lake, and had served under his father during all Lord L.'s hard-fought campaigns in India, and in the battle of Laswaree, where he acted as aid-de-camp to his father, was severely wounded by a musket shot. He was killed while engaged with his regiment in forcing a pass in the mountains, which was most obstinately disputed by the French, and fell almost in the moment when they were forced to yield to the British bayonet. Capt. Keating James Bradford, of the 3d Guards, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, and Capt. Henry Geary, of the Royal Artillery, lost their lives in the same battle.—In the battle of *Vimiera*, on the 21st of the same month, Lieut.-col. Charles Douglas Taylor, of the 20th Light Dragoons, (see Berks. p. 361) Capt. Arthur Getkin Coote, of the 50th foot; Lieut. George Brooke, of the 20th; and Lieut. Robert Donkin, of the 82d. In this action the whole of the French troops in Portugal were employed, and were led on by Junot himself. The conflict, which was most severe and sanguinary, lasted about three hours, and the result was, the complete defeat and flight of the enemy, with the loss of near 4000 men. Two regiments of grenadiers, the flower of the French army, who composed Junot's guard, were cut to pieces, to a man. After the battle 300 of them were found lying dead on the very spot on which they had been drawn up. The French General Thebault was found dead on the field of battle, and General Breniere had nearly shared the same fate, but was saved and made prisoner by Corporal Ross, of the 71st regiment, to whom the General immediately offered his watch and money, as well as his sword, which, to his utter astonishment, were refused by the captor, who presented his prisoner, unplundered, to Colonel Pack, by whom he was made a serjeant upon the field. The conduct on that day, of a cousin of this identical corporal Ross, who was piper to the same regiment, is too remarkable to be passed over in silence. As he pushed on in his ranks, fighting bravely, his pipes being slung behind him for the present, he received a severe wound in the leg from a musket ball; finding himself disabled, he deliberately sat down on the ground, and unstrapping his instrument, he called out in his native Gaelic, "I am done for fighting comrades, but music you shall not want," and immediately struck up one of those martial strains which have so often animated his countrymen to victory.

Retrospect of Public Affairs.

Early in the last month the expected intelligence from Portugal arrived, and contained accounts of occurrences highly gratifying to the patriotic feelings of Britons. General Wellesley, advancing along the sea-coast towards Lisbon, had a slight skirmish with the French out-posts on August 15th, after which, finding Gen. Laborde strongly posted at Roleire with about 6000 men, he determined to attack him. This was effected on the 17th, and the action concluded with the enemy's being driven with great loss from the whole of the difficult ground which they occupied, and compelled to retreat to the main body. In this affair the loss of the English in killed and wounded was about 400.

Junot, having assembled all his force, except the garrisons of the forts about the capital, now arrived at the French encampment; and on the 21st he made a grand attack upon the English, who were advanced to Vimiera. The most desperate efforts were made by the French in different columns directed against different points; but they were all finally repulsed at the point of the bayonet; and the enemy at length retreated, leaving the field covered with their killed and wounded, and with the loss of 21 pieces of artillery. Though inferior in total force, the French were superior in cavalry and cannon; and not more than half of the British army was actually engaged. The loss of the latter in this engagement was about 780 killed and wounded.

The news of this success occasioned great exultation in England, and sanguine exultations of a glorious result. After a considerable interval, the public was informed of the subsequent proceedings of the army in Portugal.

Lieut. General Sir Hew Dalrymple had arrived and taken the chief command on the day after the battle of Vimiera; and on the same day, August 22d, General Kellermann came from the French commander in order to propose an agreement for an armistice. The agreement was concluded on that day, and nine articles in the French language were signed by Kellermann and Sir Arthur Wellesley, declaring a suspension of arms, extending also to the Portuguese. By one of these articles it was provisionally agreed, "That the French army can in no case be considered as prisoners of war, and that all the individuals composing it shall be transported to France, with arms, baggage, and private property of every kind, from which nothing shall be withdrawn." By another, the neutrality of the port of Lisbon was declared for the Russian fleet, with power for it to proceed to sea at pleasure, and not to be pursued till after the interval granted by the maritime laws.

The armistice was preparatory to a treaty of convention for the evacuation of Portugal by the French, which, after several discussions, was definitively signed on August 30th. It contains 35 articles, the main substance of which is as follows: That all the places and forts in Portugal occupied by the French troops shall be delivered to the British army in their present state—that the French troops shall evacuate the country with their arms and baggage, shall not be considered as prisoners of war, shall be conveyed to France by the English government, and disembarked between Rochfort and L'Orient inclusively, and on their arrival shall be at liberty to serve; that they shall carry with them all their artillery of French calibre, with the horses attached to it, and sixty

rounds of ammunition per gun; that the cavalry shall be allowed to take their horses; that the army shall carry with it all its property, public and private, with liberty to dispose of such part as individuals do not chuse to take—that the sick and wounded shall be taken care of at the expence of the British government, to be reimbursed after the final evacuation—that the Spanish troops detained in the port of Lisbon shall be given up to the British commander, who engages to obtain the delivery of such French subjects as may have been detained in Spain without having been taken in battle. Many other articles are extremely favourable to the French, to whom the convention cannot but be reckoned as highly honourable, their circumstances considered.

At the same time a convention was entered into between Admiral Cotton (who had refused to concur in the article of the armistice relative to the fleet) and Admiral Siniavin, by which all the Russian ships of war in the Tagus are delivered to the English Admiral, to be held as a deposit by his Britannic Majesty, to be restored within six months after a peace between Russia and England; the officers and sailors, in the meantime, to be sent back to Russia at the expence of England, without any restriction for future service.

Never was *good news* received more ungraciously than this account of the convention for the evacuation of Portugal. The victory of Vimiera had so operated upon the sanguine temper of the British public, that there was no degree of humiliation to the French arms to which their expectations did not extend; and when it was found that the troops of that nation were to be conveyed, with all their spoil, to their own country, there to be immediately employed, if wanted, against our Spanish allies, whilst the Russian sailors were in like manner to be let loose on the Swedes, the indignation of all ranks and parties surpassed all bounds. In reply to the violent censures of the generals with which the public papers have been filled, little has hitherto appeared by way of exculpation; yet it may be gathered from Sir Hew Dalrymple's dispatch, that our victory was not so complete as not to leave the enemy in such force, that to dislodge him from his strong posts and fortresses would have been a work of considerable delay, and that in the meantime the provisioning of our numerous troops would have been a matter of much difficulty. Whether these reasons, when impartially canvassed, will appear to justify our commanders, time will shew; for undoubtedly the voice of the nation loudly calls for an enquiry. The Portuguese themselves are much dissatisfied with the terms of the convention, and a manifesto on the occasion has been published by the commander in chief of the troops of that nation.

The occurrences in Spain have hitherto continued favourable on the whole to the patriotic cause.

The Catalonians, long distinguished for their love of independence, having resolved to embrace the party of their countrymen in arms, although their capital, Barcelona, was in the possession of the enemy, a number of the provincial towns in the beginning of June elected municipal juntas, proclaimed king Ferdinand, and organised measures of defence. The French, in order to suppress the rising flame, immediately marched to different parts in detachments from Barcelona. The principal attack was directed against Gerona, which Duhesme, with a considerable body of troops, furiously stormed on June 20th and 21st, but was repulsed with great loss; and another detachment sent afterwards against the town was stopt in the way at the passes and obliged to re-

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turn. The Catalonians had seized the important post of Rosas, on which the French made two attacks, but without success. They were also driven with loss from Manresa. A detachment from France crossing the mountains on the way to Figueras was also routed. On July 22d, the Marquis del Palacios landed at Tarragona with a convoy of Spanish troops from Mahon—a seasonable reinforcement to the Catalonians.

The province of Biscay has been less fortunate; for after its declaration for the common cause, a detachment of French troops advanced to Bilboa, obliged it to capitulate, and has since treated it with great severity. They appear to retain possession of that capital.

General Palafox has sent dispatches to Madrid, dated from Saragossa, Aug. 14, importing that the French army, which during two months had been besieging that city, and which had even partially entered it, after committing the greatest excesses, had finally made a hasty retreat, leaving behind them vast quantities of provision and ammunition; and that he had sent a division of his troops to cut off their retreat to Navarre. It since appears that this division was obliged to draw back on the advance of a superior French force, and that the French again threatened Saragossa, but did not proceed so far.

Among the successes of the patriotic cause are to be mentioned the accession of the Canary isles; and that of the important island of Cuba, the council of which, assembled at the Havanna, issued a proclamation on July 17th, declaring war against France.

The civil state of Spain is now extremely remarkable. A common cause and a common spirit have hitherto led the different provinces to pursue similar measures, and to act in concert, without any general body to assume the direction of the whole. Supreme juntas, or councils elected by the people in each province, are the sole depositaries of the public power, which is thus divided into a number of independent portions. But it is manifest that this state cannot long continue; and that in order to carry the nation through its arduous contest, a strict union of all its energies must be established, under the controul of a supreme government. For the effecting of this necessary measure, the supreme junta of Seville has addressed a manifesto to the rest of Spain, strongly urging the formation of a general government. After recognizing the right of Ferdinand VII. to the crown, and stating the necessity of supplying the want of a sovereign authority during his detention, it proposes that the several provincial juntas throughout the kingdom should on the same day elect two deputies from their own body, who collectively are to form the supreme government. These are to elect from among themselves a president, whose office is to be temporary; and a seat of government is to be fixed upon, as remote as possible from the theatre of war. The junta waves this privilege for Seville, and proposes one of the cities of la Mancha. It refutes the charge of arrogating an undue authority over the rest of Spain, at the same time recounting in moderate language its services to the common cause. The paper is extremely well drawn up, and displays truly liberal and enlightened sentiments. The measure recommended is about to be put into execution, when Spain will assume the form of a government entirely based upon popular election.

Every exertion that a determined and united people can make is but too likely to be called for on the approaching contest; for Napoleon, who has at length found it necessary to lay the affairs of Spain before the French nation,

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has declared his resolution to carry on the war with the utmost activity, and not to stop short of entire subjugation of a country whose resources are so important to his desi_ns against England. He speaks with his usual arrogant confidence of success, and doubtless will strain every nerve to make his boasts good. The French troops are almost entirely evacuating Germany on their march towards the Spanish frontier, and a further anticipation of the conscripts is announced. The confederation of the Rhine, and probably the influence of France at the court of Russia, are trusted to for keeping all secure on the side of Austria.

The remaining French force in Spain is concentrated upon the Ebro, its head quarters being with Joseph Bonaparte at Logrogno. The Spanish armies are said to be advancing towards them with the intention of giving them battle before they are reinforced.

Another revolution has taken place in the turbulent government of the Porte. Its principal agent was Mustapha Bairactar, bashaw of Rudshuck, a man of noted energy and resolution, whose purpose seems to have been to replace upon the throne the deposed Selim. The forerunner of the revolution was the arrival of the aga of the Janissaries on July 18th with 15,000 men, whom he encamped near Constantinople. The aga died *suddenly* on the next day, and a successor to him was appointed. Several days passed in which Mustapha Bairactar was strengthening himself by the arrival of fresh troops, and various changes were making among the ministers and officers of the army. At length, on July 28. Mustapha, who had obtained the appointment of generalissimo, surrounded the palace of the Grand Vizier, whom he deposed and made prisoner. The Grand Seignor, now fully apprized of his designs, sent executioners, who strangled his uncle, the deposed Selim, whose body was exposed to view in the Seraglio. This bloody deed, however, only accelerated his own fall, and on the same day it was announced that Mustapha IV. was succeeded by his younger brother Mahomet II. to whom Bairactar was declared Vizier. The new emperor is in his 24th year. It is affirmed that his brother was in the act of putting him to death at the time that his palace was entered by the insurgents. Bairactar has declared, that the Ottoman empire requires a great increase of its force to enable it to contend with its enemies; but against whom this is to be chiefly exerted, does not yet appear. The truce with the Servians has expired, and hostilities are renewed.

The naval inferiority of the Turks has been strikingly exemplified in an action in the Archipelago, between three of their vessels, one of 50 and two of 44 guns, and the English frigate Sea-horse, which they were sent to take; the result of which was, the sinking of one of the 44's and the capture of the 50, since brought into Malta.

The British navy has also maintaiped its reputation in an action in the Baltic. A Russian fleet having appeared in those seas, Sir Samuel Hood, with two ships of the line, made a junction with the Swedes, and proceeded on the 25th of August in quest of the enemy, who had 13 sail of the line, besides frigates. The Russians took to flight, and the combined squadron pursuing, Sir Samuel on the 26th, with his copper-bottomed vessels, shot greatly a-head, and brought the sternmost of the Russian ships to action. The Russian Admiral bore down with all his force to rescue her; but, on the nearer approach of the Swedes, entered the port of Rogerswick, in order to avoid a general engagement. The

ship

ship that had been engaged struck upon a shoal as she was following, and notwithstanding all the efforts of the enemy, was destroyed by Sir Samuel Hood's ship, after taking out of her the crew and the wounded men. The action was viewed with great admiration by the Swedes, who used every endeavour to get up, but in vain. Admiral Saumarez has since joined with the rest of the British, and the united squadrons are blocking up the Russian fleet, with the hopes of being able to destroy it in the harbour, or force it to capitulate.

An expedition with 7000 men, under Sir David Baird, sailed from Cork on Sept. 15th, supposed to be intended for Italy. It is to join another collecting at Falmouth, with the Spanish troops from Denmark.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

In our last we had the satisfaction to announce the safe arrival of four considerable fleets, and we have now the gratification to add that of the July fleets from Jamaica and the Leeward Island, under convoy of his Majesty's ships of war Adamant and Ramilies.

We have also further to communicate the safe arrival of the following ships from China, under convoy of the Jupiter and Thetis; viz. Hope, Alfred, Coutts, Woodford, Taunton Castle, and Earl Camden, with three whalers in company, after a tolerable passage, having sailed from China on the 14th March, and from St. Helena on the 17th July, at which island they left the Lord Castlereagh, Europe, and Lord Keith, outward bound, all well.

The Surat Castle, Robertson, was spoke with on the 2d or 3d April, in the Straits of Malacca, proceeding on her voyage.

We have procured an account of the respective cargoes of the above-mentioned fleet from China, which we quote as under.

Tea.—Bohea. 2,124,801 lbs.; Congou, 2,286,613; Camoi, 182,496; Souchong, 139, 088; Singlo, 374,465; Twankay, 2,232,566; Superior do. 131,031; Hyson Skin, 199,047; Hyson, 355,790;—making a total, exclusive of private trade, of above eight millions of pounds. Raw silk, 519 chests, 51,600 lbs.; Nankeen cloth, 102,750 pieces; besides a variety of other goods, of which the particulars are not yet known.

The Court of Directors have declared for sale on Thursday, the 20th Oct. 1808, prompt the 27th Jan. 1809, the following articles:

Private Trade.—Alkali, anniseed, cambogium, cardemon, cassia, galls, ginger, gum, musk, sago, sal ammoniac, turmerick, vermillion, mother-of-pearl shell, elephants teeth, cornelians, soy, matts, rattans, canes, redwood, hides, &c.

We are happy to announce, that even in the present infant state of our friendly relations with Spain, our commerce with the different ports of that country has already become considerable. One house alone in London is said to have received orders for coarse woollens to a considerable extent. Trade is in consequence looking up in the West Riding; and in the towns of Birmingham and Sheffield our manufacturers are briskly at work. The canals which connect these places with the metropolis exhibit an appearance of increased activity. We would for the present advise our speculators not to be too free in their shipments, the Spaniards having as yet but little money at command, and produce not being easily to be had in return, on account of the unsettled state of affairs in that country; for as yet all hands are busily engaged in the mighty work of their deliverance.

The evacuation of Portugal by the French troops, however much we may regret the conditions under which it was procured, will doubtless have a good effect upon our trade with that quarter. We hope ere long to have it in our power to announce the arrival of a good stock of wines from Oporto, as this article

article still continues high priced, prime Port already fetching 105l. per pipe, and scarcely any to be had under 90l. We have some expectations of seeing it considerably under its present price, and we trust that Ministers will not again have recourse to additional taxation on this article of our imports, already so much overloaded. Our merchants in this branch of our trade have, indeed, suffered most severely of late years, and that too without any corresponding increase of benefit accruing to the revenue.

Owing to the continuance of the American embargo, tobacco of all kinds yield high prices. Mere scrubs fetch from 8½d. to 9d.; prime York River Virginias are selling as high as 13d.; and Marylands of bright colour are not to be had at any price: indeed of this latter quality our market has for a considerable length of time been unusually bare. With respect to this article of our trade in its manufactured state, little is doing in the way of export; and, compared with our shipments of former years, scarcely a single pound can now be said to be manufactured for that purpose; for in this, as well as in some other articles, it is complained that the enormous duties have so crippled the manufacturer as almost entirely to prevent competition with the Dutch in the continental markets—supposing even that the present system of exclusion to all British produce were no longer in force. In British America, to which we had formerly a considerable trade in this article, the duty imposed upon all manufactured tobacco imported, added to the charges of freight and insurance from this country, greatly counterbalance the superiority of our manufacture over their's, and nearly amount to a total prohibition.

We have had some few arrivals from St. Domingo. Specie was much wanted, and trade very dull, though we learn there is abundance of produce.

The average price of brown or Muscovado sugar, exclusive of duty, has been about 35s. per cwt. The planters consider this to be nearly 30s. below the price which they ought to have. The distillers have as yet scarcely appeared in the character of purchasers in the sugar market, although the injury which the barley crop has sustained from the rain will most probably make it a matter of necessity to continue the distillation from sugar. This injury to barley has been experienced both in the great barley county of Norfolk and in the West of England. And even had this grain been more plentiful, it is likely that the high and increasing price of other sorts of corn would have induced Government to enforce the distillation from sugar so long as we are excluded from foreign supplies. Meantime the expectation of the distillers coming forward in the sugar market as the buyers of the middling and inferior qualities, enhances the price of these qualities beyond the usual proportion. For many year there has been a difference of twenty or five-and-twenty shillings a cwt. in the price of sugar according to its quality, but at present that difference does not exceed ten shillings, the coarsest qualities fetching 60s. while the finest do not go beyond 70s. The over-stock in the market is nearly as great as last year, the additional imports from Santa Cruz being equivalent to the diminution in the produce of our own islands.

The rates of insurance at Lloyd's continue very moderate. Five per cent. from Jamaica to London, and four per cent. from the Windward Islands are the established summer premiums. These are one per cent. lower than the most favourable periods of last war; but low as these rates are, it is well known that the underwriters generally make money by these voyages. It is an important fact in underwriting, that more money is made in the way of small risks and small premiums than by great hazards and great premiums. The frequent destruction by fire of the buildings which at the Assurance offices are classed under the title of "Hazardous," is a melancholy exemplification of this rule—witness the late catastrophe at Covent Garden!

Stocks continue considerably lower than they were some months ago, in consequence of the expectation of war between Austria and France. The India fleet sailed from Portsmouth with a fair wind the middle of last month. The next convoy of magnitude will be the West India November fleet.

The American embargo continues in force, without any prospect of its being either taken off or relaxed. All parties suffer considerably from this total suspension of intercourse. We are deprived of a great vent for our manufactures,

tures, America loses the opportunity of selling her raw produce, and France is completely cut off from Transatlantic supplies. The French West India islands besides are compelled to labour under a great scarcity of provisions, to such a degree, indeed, that some sanguine minds continue to flatter themselves with the expectation of their being starved into a surrender to Great Britain. At what time the American President may consider that the season has arrived for taking off the embargo we are totally at a loss to determine. He seems to have flattered himself with receiving a categorical answer from one or other of the contending parties long before the present period. Of the right of the American nation, or of any other nation, to shut its ports to the world, no doubt can exist; but the policy of exercising this right is very questionable; and we expect soon to hear that no small opposition will take place between the American people, become impatient under a pernicious restriction, and clamorous for its repeal, and their government, wedded to a favourite measure, and pertinacious in continuing to enforce it.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

South Sea Stock	71½
3 per Cent. Cons.	65⅜⅞⅝
5 per Cent. Ann.	97⅞¾
Imperial Annuities	
Omnium	2¾ d.
Exchequer Bills	1 d. 3 p.
Consols for Ac.	66⅛ 66

The Average Prices of Navigable Canal Shares, Dock Stock, Fire Office Shares, &c. in SEPT. 1808; *at the Office of Mr. Scott, 28, New Bridge-street, London.*

Leeds and Liverpool, 182l. dividing 8l. per cent. per ann. nett.—*Grand Junction*, 132l.; the last half-yearly dividend was 2l. nett.—*Monmouthshire*, 100l. paying 5l. per cent.—*Kennet and Avon*, 20l. 10s. for 16l. paid.—*Huddersfield*, 19l. each.—*Basingstoke*, 19l. to 19l. to 21l.—*East London Water Works*, 42l. premium each.—*West Middlesex ditto*, 22l. premium.—*West India Dock*, 157l. to 159l. dividing 10l. per cent. nett.—*London Dock Stock*, 115l. to 116l. per cent., dividing 5½l. per cent.—*Commercial Dock*, 25l. per cent. premium.—*Globe Insurance*, 114l. per cent.—*Provident Institution*, 5s. to 10s. premium each.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER.

Country universally engaged in sowing wheat, the lands in the finest order, and all farmers eager to have as large a spread as possible of the golden grain under such encouraging markets. The same we hear from Ireland.

The general opinion as to the wheat crop seems now to be made up. Bulk very large, and would have been equal, if not superior in quantity, to the last year's crop, but for the unfortunate occurrence of blight. This misfortune, however, is not universal, at least to the extreme degree. The inland generally, and the northern districts, have escaped with the least damage. Of Scotland we cannot yet speak particularly. The sample of wheat, it is to be feared, will be too generally light, rough, and discoloured; as to the quantity of smutted wheat, accounts are quite uncertain.

Barley may be called a fair crop in point of quantity, but will be deficient in the fine colour and quality of healthy years. Oats and Peas a middling crop in

in both respects. Beans a good crop, on the best lands, and of fine quality, with a total failure on some lands. In some unfortunate spots of the maritime districts the wheat has been so totally spoiled as not to be worth the expence of collecting.

Crop of fruit, particularly grapes, vast; and it ought to be known, that the abundance of grapes which will not ripen, yet make the strongest bodied wine. Hops abundant. Clover and seeds very good.

Grass and cattle food in the utmost plenty, but the cattle cabbage has received vast damage from blight and the catterpillar. Turnips good on rich soils, chiefly of the second sowing; on poor soils, very thin, and a great number of acres taken up, to make the necessary quantity of feed for the stock.

Lean stock dearer, fat as last. Good store pigs in demand; such, of the weight 11 stone, or 88lbs. worth from two guineas and a half to fifty-five shillings. Wools on the advance.

Smithfield. Beef, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. Mutton, do. Lamb, 5s. 6d. Veal, 5s. to 7s. Pork, 5s. 6d. to 7s. Bacon, 6s. 10d. Irish do. 5s. to 5s. 8d. Fat, 5s. to 5s. 4d. Skins dearer.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

The new wheats which have been brought to market have justified, in some degree, the opinion already given of their quality; although, in some situations, on thrashing, more smut has been discovered than was at harvest visible; in others the grain is free, or only slightly infected, and the increase good.

Wheat sowing has become pretty general, and, owing to the rains which fell in the course of the preceding month, the fallows on strong lands, clover leys, and bean etches, have worked kindly and well. Turnips, both early and late sown, grow fast, improving much in their appearance. The potatoes taken up prove also abundant in quantity, sound, and good in quality.

The after grass still continues to grow; and in the hay districts near the metropolis much rowen hay has been made and carried.

The great Bartholomew fair at Barnet was well supplied with Irish, Welch, and Scotch beasts, which on the first day sold readily and well; on the following ones the sales were dull, at reduced prices, and numbers were driven away unsold. Cows and calves were reasonable, and some few good horses brought great prices, but the inferior ones, of which there were abundance, scarcely saleable at any price. In the pig markets large porkers have been on the advance, owing to the demand for them to supply the large contract now pending with Government for the use of the navy; and to a similar one for flour for the troops serving abroad may be attributed the recent advance of that article in the market, and the ultimate rise in the assize of bread.

PRICE OF GRAIN.

	ENGLAND AND WALES.		SCOTLAND.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Wheat	84	1	79	3
Rye	52	9	54	6
Barley	42	2	38	0
Oats	34	5	33	3
Beans	63	4	59	8
Pease	60	6	61	4
Oatmeal	49	7	29	3
Bigg	—	—	32	7